OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 1/03 Vol. 46, No. 1

Living Up to Our Dedication

[1] Whether you were baptized recently or decades ago, you likely remember that milestone in your life. Our baptism is not the end but, rather, the beginning of a lifetime of dedicated service that can last forever. (1 John 2:17) What is involved in living up to our dedication?

[2] **Follow Christ's Example:** Upon being baptized, Jesus "commenced his work," declaring "the good news of the kingdom of God." (Luke 3:23; 4:43) Similarly, upon symbolizing our dedication to Jehovah by baptism, we became ordained ministers of the good news. While much time and effort may be required to obtain the material necessities of life, our vocation, or chief work, is the Christian ministry. (Matt. 6:33) Rather than striving to attain wealth or prestige, those dedicated to God seek to 'glorify their ministry,' as did the apostle Paul. (Rom. 11:13) Do you cherish your privilege of serving Jehovah and make the most of it?

[3] As in the case of Jesus, we must "oppose the Devil." (Jas. 4:7) Satan tempted Jesus following His baptism, and he similarly targets dedicated servants of Jehovah today. (Luke 4:1-13) Being surrounded by Satan's world, we must exercise self-discipline, avoiding anything that could contaminate our mind or corrupt our heart. (Prov. 4:23; Matt. 5:29, 30) Christians are admonished that they "cannot be partaking of 'the table of Jehovah' and the table of demons." (1 Cor. 10:21) This requires that we guard against unwholesome entertainment, bad associations, and dangers on the Internet. It also calls for our shunning apostate material. Being alert to these and other tactics of Satan will help us to live up to our dedication.

[4] **Use God's Provisions:** In order to help us live up to our dedication, Jehovah has provided assistance by means of his Word and the Christian congregation. Make Bible reading and prayer to Jehovah part of your daily routine. (Josh. 1:8; 1 Thess. 5:17) Take delight in congregation meetings. (Ps. 122:1) Associate with those who fear Jehovah and keep his orders.—Ps. 119:63.

[5] With divine support, you can live up to your dedication to Jehovah and have the joy of serving him forever.—Ps. 22:26, 27; Phil. 4:13.

A Work That Calls for Humility

[1] God's Word admonishes us to be "humble in mind, not paying back injury for injury . . . but, to the contrary, bestowing a blessing." (1 Pet. 3:8, 9) That counsel certainly applies in the preaching work. Indeed, the Christian ministry can be a test of our humility.

[2] Humility is a quality that helps us to endure unpleasant situations. When preaching, we approach strangers uninvited, knowing that some will respond in an unkind manner. To keep preaching in the face of such treatment takes humility. In one particularly difficult territory, two pioneer sisters went from door to door every day for two years without getting anyone to answer! However, they persevered, and today there are two congregations in that area.

[3] **Handling Rudeness:** Humility will help us to imitate Jesus when others are unkind or impolite. (1 Pet. 2:21-23) At one home a sister met with verbal abuse, first by the wife and then by the husband, who ordered her off the property. The sister simply smiled and said that she hoped to talk to them at another time. This so impressed the couple that they listened to the next Witness who called and accepted an invitation to attend a meeting at the Kingdom Hall. The sister who had initially been rebuffed was there to greet them and to give them a further witness. We too may soften unreceptive ones by displaying "a mild temper and deep respect."—1 Pet. 3:15; Prov. 25:15.

[4] **Avoid Arrogance:** Our knowledge of the Bible provides no basis for looking down on people or referring to them in disparaging terms. (John 7:49) Rather, God's Word counsels us "to speak injuriously of no one." (Titus 3:2) When we are lowly in heart, as Jesus was, we refresh others. (Matt. 11:28, 29) A humble approach adds appeal to our message.

[5] Yes, humility helps us to persevere in difficult territory. It can soften unreceptive ones, and it attracts others to the Kingdom message. Above all, it pleases Jehovah, who "gives undeserved kindness to the humble ones."—1 Pet. 5:5.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting January 13

Song 69

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using suggestions on page 4, have two separate demonstrations of how to feature the January 15 *Watchtower* and the January 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured.

15 min: Won Without a Word. Talk and audience discussion. Fine Christian conduct is a powerful witness. It has moved some unbelieving mates to become worshipers of Jehovah. (1 Pet. 3:1, 2) Relate experiences found in the January 1, 1999, *Watchtower,* page 4; the October 1, 1995, *Watchtower,* pages 10-11; and the *1995 Yearbook,* page 46. Arrange in advance for two or three to comment on the positive results they have observed from following the Bible's counsel in this area.

20 min: "Living Up to Our Dedication."* After considering paragraph 3, briefly interview a young adult or a teenager who is baptized. What challenges has he faced since getting baptized? What helped him to meet those challenges? How has he benefited from dedicating his life to Jehovah?

Song 22 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 20

Song 44

8 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Are You Examining the Scriptures Daily? Talk and audience discussion. Encourage all to make good use of *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2003.* Discuss comments from the foreword, pages 3-4. Offer suggestions on how families can discuss the text together. To show the benefits of considering the text each day, discuss two or three examples of the text and comments that are coming up in the next month. Include a short demonstration of a husband and wife considering today's text and comments together.

22 min: "Teach Others the Pure Language."* After considering paragraph 6, have a capable publisher demonstrate how to start a doorstep Bible study when making a return visit, using one of the presentations in the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, page 4. Include a consideration of one paragraph in the *Require* brochure. Have publisher conclude by raising a question on the next paragraph and arranging to answer it on the next visit. Encourage all to consider whether any of those they call on might be willing to study the Bible in this manner.

Song 68 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 27

Song 92

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports. Using suggestions on page 4, have two separate demonstrations of how to feature the February 1 *Watchtower* and the February 8 *Awake!* In each case, have the publisher conclude by handing the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* to the householder—to one who does not accept the magazines and to one who does. Briefly explain how we can follow up magazine placements when we leave the tract.—See the November 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 4, par. 10.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Help Others Draw Close to Jehovah. Talk and audience discussion. We will offer the new book during February. Discuss note to readers on page 3, and highlight some of the book's features. Each of the four sections focuses on one of Jehovah's cardinal attributes. A chapter showing how Jesus displayed that quality and a chapter discussing how we can do so are included. There are 17 full-page illustrations of Biblical scenes. The "Questions for Meditation" help us reflect on other important aspects of a subject. Review the box "Presentations for *Draw Close to Jehovah,*" and have a capable publisher demonstrate one of the presentations.

Song 124 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 3

Song 9

15 min: Local announcements. Review Question Box. Encourage publishers to use the Please Follow Up (S-43) form when they meet people who speak another language, as explained in the letter to all congregations dated October 15, 1998. Generally, the form should be used for this purpose *even if the individual does not show interest in the Kingdom message.*

12 min: Imitate Their Faith. Interview an elder who has humbly and faithfully served Jehovah for many years. (Heb. 13:7) How did he learn the truth? What obstacles did he have to overcome in taking his stand? What spiritual provisions or encouragement helped him to progress? What did he do to reach out in the congregation? (1 Tim. 3:1) What has helped him to balance congregation responsibilities with secular and family obligations? (1 Tim. 5:8) How does he feel about the privilege of assisting others in the congregation?

18 min: "A Work That Calls for Humility."* When discussing paragraph 3, invite audience to offer suggestions on how to respond if someone in the territory tries to ridicule us or is rude, argumentative, or angry. When discussing paragraph 4, include comments on *Insight,* Volume 1, page 1160, paragraph 3.

Song 133 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	131	122.7	114.4	56.6	5.2
Pios.	91,101	68.0	46.4	21.4	1.8
Aux. Pios.	23,902	50.3	37.8	13.6	1.0
Pubs.	857,406	9.2	8.2	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	972,540		Baptized: 2,628		

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1988 may be offered. Branches that do not have older 192-page books may offer *Mankind's Search for God*. **February:** The new book *Draw Close to Jehovah* will be featured. Branches that do not yet have this publication may use the *Creation* book or the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer. **March:** Feature the *Knowledge* book, with an effort to start home Bible studies. **April and May:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When making return visits on interested people, concentrate on placing *Worship the Only True God*. Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially if some individuals have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure.
- Starting in February, and no later than March 2, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "Deliverance From a World of Darkness."
- Congregations should make convenient arrangements to observe the Memorial this year on Wednesday, April 16, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the emblems *should not begin until after sundown*. Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we would suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs so that all may benefit fully from the occasion. Consideration should also be given to traffic conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.
- As of this issue, the list of new publications available will no longer appear in *Our Kingdom Ministry*. The "Announcement to All Congregations" with this information will continue to be mailed to all congregations each month. As a reminder, once the "Announcement to All Congregations" is received, an announcement should be made at the next Service Meeting regarding the items that may be of interest to your congregation. The announcement may then be posted on the information board. After that, the literature servant should retain it in his file.
- For those who wish to make donations to the worldwide work electronically, a set of instructions is available to explain this arrangement. For further information, call or write to Watch Tower, Office of the Secretary and Treasurer, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201-2483, (718) 560-5000.

QUESTION BOX

- When is it appropriate to form a foreign-language group?

When a congregation's territory includes a sizable foreign-language population, the elders should do what they can to organize the preaching work in that language. (*km* 7/02 p. 1; *km* 2/98 pp. 3-4) It may be that the foreign-language community is widely scattered throughout the territories of two or more neighboring congregations. In such a case, the circuit overseer(s) will provide needed direction, thus helping the congregations involved to cooperate in the preaching activity. Periodically, a public talk or *Watchtower* Study may be arranged to determine the extent of support for the meetings in the foreign language.

A foreign-language group can be formed when the following requirements are met: (1) There are publishers or interested ones who best understand the good news in the foreign language. (2) A qualified elder or ministerial servant is available to take the lead and conduct at least one weekly meeting. (3) A body of elders is willing to sponsor the group. When these requirements have been met, the elders should inform the branch office so that the group can be formally recognized and further instructions can be given.

Most groups begin by holding the Congregation Book Study on a weekly basis. Later, the elders may approve of adding other meetings, such as the Public Meeting and the *Watchtower* Study. Assignments No. 2, 3, and 4 on the Theocratic Ministry School may be presented in an auxiliary classroom if a qualified elder or ministerial servant conversant in the language can serve as the counselor. However, the group will join the congregation for the speech-quality talk, instruction talk, Bible highlights, and Service Meeting. Meetings for field service may also be arranged for the group.

All in the group work closely under the oversight of the body of elders. The elders should provide balanced direction and show initiative in caring for the needs of the group. When the circuit overseer visits the sponsoring congregation, he will also arrange to work with the group in order to build it up spiritually. With Jehovah's blessing, the foreign-language group may in time become a congregation.

Presentations for *Draw Close to Jehovah*

- With Bible in hand, say: "Many people who believe in God would like to feel closer to him. Did you know that God invites us to draw close to him? [Read James 4:8.] This publication is designed to help people use their own Bible to draw close to God." Read paragraph 1 on page 16.
- With Bible in hand, say: "Today injustice abounds. It is just as described here. [Read Ecclesiastes 8:9b.] Many wonder if God even cares. [Read the first two sentences of paragraph 4 on page 119.] This chapter explains why God has permitted injustice for a time."

Teach Others the Pure Language

[1] Despite coming from many 'nations, tribes, peoples and tongues,' Jehovah's Witnesses are a united people, a true international brotherhood. (Rev. 7:9) In today's divided world, that is remarkable. How is it possible? Because we have been given "the change to a pure language."—Zeph. 3:9.

[2] **Marvelous Effects:** What is this pure language? It is the *proper understanding of the truth found in God's Word regarding Jehovah and his purposes,* particularly the truth about God's Kingdom. As foretold by Jesus, this truth is being dispensed by means of a visible earthly channel, "the faithful and discreet slave," with the result that people "out of all the languages of the nations" are embracing true worship.—Matt. 24:45; Zech. 8:23.

[3] As people learn the pure language, they are moved to conform their lives to Jehovah's standards. They learn to be "fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought." (1 Cor. 1:10) Divine teaching also produces in them upright conduct and wholesome, truthful speech, especially with regard to telling others the good news. (Titus 2:7, 8; Heb. 13:15) These marvelous changes honor Jehovah.

[4] For example, a man who was contacted with the good news had many questions, all of which were answered from the Bible. Moved by what he heard, he began studying twice a week and attending meetings. He was surprised by the warm welcome he received at the Kingdom Hall, since many in attendance were of a different race. Within a short time, he and his wife made changes in their lives and got baptized. Since then he has helped some 40 others to serve Jehovah, including numerous family members. Despite suffering from a disability, he recently began serving as a pioneer.

[5] **Teaching Others:** World events are causing many honest people to reexamine their thinking and their lives. Like Jesus, we should desire to help them. Effective return visits and Bible studies are a key to helping sincere ones to learn the pure language.

[6] An approach that has proved to be effective with busy people is to conduct a brief Bible study right on their doorstep. (*km* 5/02 p. 1) Have you tried this? When you are preparing to make a return visit, select from the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert a presentation that fits the householder. Many of the presentations in this insert are designed to lead directly into a discussion of the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. Practice the presentation so that you can move smoothly from the introduction to a discussion of one of the paragraphs. Select one or two scriptures from the paragraph to read and discuss, and formulate a question with which to conclude. That will help lead into the paragraph you plan to cover on the next visit.

[7] Jehovah's people are experiencing many blessings as a result of learning the pure language. May we diligently help others to join us in 'calling upon the name of Jehovah' and in 'serving him shoulder to shoulder.'—Zeph. 3:9.

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Jan. 15**

"In view of all the bloodshed that has occurred, do you think that evil has conquered good? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says about God. [Read Psalm 83:18b.] Since God is the Most High over the earth, can evil really win? [Allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* gives a satisfying answer to that question."

Awake! Jan. 22

"As never before, our security is being threatened. A growing concern is something called identity theft. Have you heard of that? [Allow for response.] The Bible promises that one day this earth will be free from all threats to our security. [Read Isaiah 11:9.] This magazine explains how this will be accomplished."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Feb. 1**

"Many people today worry about unemployment, and others are under tremendous pressure at work. Do you think it is possible to feel happy and secure at work? [Allow for response. Then read Isaiah 65:21-23.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses a time when all will have work that is rewarding."

Awake! Feb. 8

"This issue of *Awake!* reports on a tragic reality of our times—child prostitution. This deplorable form of child abuse is something that the Bible promises will soon end. [Read Proverbs 2:21, 22.] This magazine shows what is behind such exploitation of children as well as how it will be stopped."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 2/03 Vol. 46, No. 2

Be Sound in Mind as the End Draws Close

1 God's Word repeatedly describes Jehovah's day as coming "as a thief"—that is, suddenly, instantly, stealthily. (1 Thess. 5:2; Matt. 24:43; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 3:3; 16:15) "On this account," Jesus said, "prove yourselves ready, because at an hour that you do not think to be it, the Son of man is coming." (Matt. 24:44) How can we maintain our spiritual readiness as the end draws close? A key is found in the inspired admonition: "Be sound in mind."—1 Pet. 4:7.

2 Soundness of mind involves looking at things from Jehovah's standpoint. (Eph. 5:17) It helps us to see ourselves as "aliens and temporary residents" amid the present system of things. (1 Pet. 2:11) It enables us to discern what is truly important, to set priorities, and to make good decisions.—Phil. 1:10.

3 **Set Spiritual Goals:** Setting and attaining spiritual goals helps us to be sound in mind. Do you have spiritual goals that you are currently pursuing? Are you striving to read the Bible every day, attend all Christian meetings, read each issue of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, or perhaps increase your share in the ministry? If you set goals that are right for you, persist in pursuing them, and ask Jehovah to bless your efforts, you may be amazed at the results.

4 An elder asked a young couple about their spiritual goals. The question made them realize that if they simplified their life and eliminated burdensome debt, they could pioneer. They decided to make that their goal. They diligently paid off the debt and found ways to prune away unnecessary activities that were sapping their time and energy. Exactly one year later, they had reached their goal. With what result? The husband says: "Without goals we would not be where we are now. We are happier. Our life is calmer and better. It has real meaning and purpose."

5 As we await Jehovah's day, may we maintain our spiritual readiness by living with soundness of mind, keeping focused on doing God's will.—Titus 2:11-13.

Can You Open Your Home?

1 In the first century, many Christians made their homes available to be used for congregation meetings. (1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philem. 1, 2) In some congregations today, there are not enough locations for Congregation Book Study groups and meetings for field service. This may result in some book study groups having 30 or more in attendance, far more than the preferred number of about 15.

2 **A Fine Privilege:** Have you considered opening your home for a Congregation Book Study? A room of sufficient size that is clean, well lit, and well ventilated is ideal for this purpose. Since the book study is a congregation meeting and part of Jehovah's arrangement to instruct his people, having a book study in your home is a fine privilege. Many report that they have benefited spiritually by opening their home in this way.

3 If you think that your home is suitable, by all means make this known to the elders. They may be looking for additional locations. If it is not possible to have a book study in your home, could meetings for field service be held there? Even if there is not a need at the present time, the elders will appreciate knowing that your home is available. You may enjoy the privilege in the future.

4 **Showing Good Manners:** When gathering in a private home, all in attendance need to be respectful of the host's property. Parents should make sure that their children remain in the area designated for the study, not venturing into private areas of the home. Consideration should also be shown for the neighbors, being careful to avoid unduly inconveniencing them.—2 Cor. 6:3, 4; 1 Pet. 2:12.

5 Hebrews 13:16 encourages us not to forget "the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Opening your home for a congregation meeting is a fine way to share good things with others and to "honor Jehovah with your valuable things."—Prov. 3:9.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting February 10

Song 4

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to view the video *Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of February 24. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the February 15 *Watchtower* and the February 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured.

35 min: "Preach and Give a Thorough Witness."* To be handled by the service overseer. Encourage all who can to auxiliary pioneer in March and April. Invite comments from those who pioneered last Memorial season. How did they arrange to pioneer? What effort and adjustments did this require? What joys and blessings did they experience? Review the sample schedules in the box on page 4. Announce that applications for auxiliary pioneering will be available after the meeting.

Song 30 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 17

Song 48

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Review literature offer for March. Mention one or two suggestions for presenting the *Knowledge* book, using points from the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Emphasize the goal of starting home Bible studies.

15 min: "Can You Open Your Home?" Talk by a book study overseer. Include comments on the April 2001 and February 1990 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Boxes. Mention the number of book study groups in the congregation and the average attendance. Have one or two publishers relate how they and their families have benefited by having a book study in the home. Any who would like to make their home available should make this known to the presiding overseer.

20 min: "What Is Your Priority?"* Arrange in advance for one or two publishers to comment on how they have been able to adjust their circumstances to do more in the ministry.

Song 57 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 24

Song 74

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for February. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the March 1 *Watchtower* and the March 8 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured.

10 min: "Help at the Right Time." Talk by an elder. Highlight that the special effort being made to assist those who are inactive reflects Jehovah's loving concern for his people.

25 min: "A Video That Will Enlighten and Inspire You!" Get right into an audience discussion of the *Faithful Under Trials* video, using the questions that are provided. Carefully apportion the time so as to allow for several comments on the last question. Conclude by reading the box on page 192 of the *2002 Yearbook.*

Song 56 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 3

Song 14

10 min: Local announcements. Briefly discuss "New Arrangement for Kingdom Hall Libraries." Mention who will be serving as librarian for the Kingdom Hall library.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Be Sound in Mind as the End Draws Close."* When discussing paragraphs 3-4, invite publishers to relate what spiritual goals they are currently pursuing. Include comments on page 176 of the *Worship God* book.

Song 127 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**193**	**105.5**	**90.7**	**46.7**	**4.6**
Pios.	**89,083**	**64.7**	**43.0**	**20.9**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**20,443**	**49.2**	**35.5**	**13.3**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**863,348**	**9.3**	**8.2**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**973,067**		Baptized: **2,395**		

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Preach and Give a Thorough Witness

[1] As "a leader and commander," Jesus prepared his disciples for the vast preaching work that lay ahead. (Isa. 55:4; Luke 10:1-12; Acts 1:8) The apostle Peter described the commission Jesus gave them in these words: "He ordered us to preach to the people and to give a thorough witness that this is the One decreed by God to be judge of the living and the dead." (Acts 10: 42) What is involved in giving a thorough witness?

[2] We can learn much from considering the example of the apostle Paul. When meeting with the older men from the congregation in Ephesus, he reminded them: "I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house. But I *thoroughly bore witness* both to Jews and to Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus." Despite facing trials himself, Paul sought to reach as many as possible with the good news. He was not content to share just basic truths with his listeners, but he sought to impart "all the counsel of God." To accomplish this, he was willing to exert himself and make sacrifices. He further stated: "I do not make my soul of any account as dear to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received of the Lord Jesus, to bear *thorough witness* to the good news of the undeserved kindness of God."—Acts 20:20, 21, 24, 27.

[3] How can we imitate Paul's example today? (1 Cor. 11:1) By searching for deserving households even when we ourselves are facing trials, by striving to reach people of all ethnic groups and languages with the good news, and by diligently cultivating the interest we find. (Matt. 10:12, 13) This requires time, effort, and love for people.

[4] **Can You Serve as an Auxiliary Pioneer?** March and April could be a fine opportunity for you to give a thorough witness by auxiliary pioneering. How encouraging it was last year to see so many make a special effort to auxiliary pioneer!

[5] An 80-year-old sister with many health problems was stirred by the encouragement provided by Jehovah's organization. She wrote: "It set on fire the spark I've had in my heart for a long time, and it made me feel that I just had to auxiliary pioneer at least one more time." She decided to aim for March. "The first thing I did," she said, "was to sit down and count the cost. I talked it over with my daughter because I would need her help. She surprised me by getting an application for herself." During the month, the elderly sister spent 52 hours in the ministry. "Many times I prayed to Jehovah to renew my strength when I felt it was giving out. At the end of the month, I was very happy and satisfied, and I have thanked Jehovah many times for helping me. I would like to try it again." Her happy experience may encourage others who really want to auxiliary pioneer in spite of serious health concerns.

[6] A brother who was unexpectedly laid off from his secular employment took advantage of the situation to auxiliary pioneer. As the month progressed, he became infused with zeal for the preaching work, and by the end of the month, he had started a new Bible study. Reflecting on the experience, he said: "What a month!" How elated he was for having Jehovah's help! Yes, Jehovah emptied out a rich blessing upon him for the extra effort the brother put forth in the ministry, and he will do the same for you.—Mal. 3:10.

[7] For many, auxiliary pioneering is not easy. Nevertheless, despite secular and family responsibilities as well as personal challenges, a good number of brothers and sisters have been able to do so. Giving a thorough witness often involves a sacrifice of our precious time and energy, but the blessings are without equal. —Prov. 10:22.

[8] March and April are ideal times to auxiliary pioneer. There are five weekends during March. Taking advantage of these and making good use of the evening hours may allow some who work full-time to auxiliary pioneer. In addition, you may be able to take advantage of the holidays during the month of April. Some may have time off from school and secular work, which can help them to meet the 50-hour requirement. In order to schedule 50 hours in the ministry during March or April, can you use one of the sample auxiliary pioneer schedules included with this article? Discuss your schedule with others; some will no doubt be encouraged to join you in the

ministry. If you are not able to auxiliary pioneer, set a specific goal for these months, and support those who are able to pioneer. Make your plans now for increased service during March and April.

9 **Show Appreciation for the Memorial:** Each year during the Memorial season, gratitude for the ransom moves thousands to 'buy out the time' to be auxiliary pioneers. (Eph. 5: 15, 16) In the United States last year, there were 126,378 auxiliary pioneers in March and 51,217 in April. That makes an average of 88,797 for each of these two months. Compare that with the average number of 21,505 who auxiliary pioneered during each of the previous months of the service year. This Memorial season is another fine opportunity to show our sincere appreciation for Christ's ransom sacrifice by increasing our activity in the field ministry.

Various Ways to Auxiliary Pioneer in March and April 2003

Day	Hours					
Monday	1	2	—	—	2	—
Tuesday	1	—	3	—	—	—
Wednesday	1	2	—	5	—	—
Thursday	1	—	3	—	—	—
Friday	1	2	—	—	—	—
Saturday	5	4	3	5	6	7
Sunday	2	2	3	2	2	3
March	**56**	**56**	**54**	**55**	**50**	**50**
April	**50**	**50**	**51**	**53**	**—**	**—**

Will one of these schedules work for you?

10 As April 16 approaches, contemplate what the Memorial means to you. Think about the events leading up to Christ's death and the thoughts that weighed heavily on his mind and heart. Reflect, too, on the joy that was set before Jesus and how it helped him to endure such mistreatment. Ponder over his present position as Head of the congregation, overseeing the preaching and disciple-making work. (1 Cor. 11:3; Heb. 12:2; Rev. 14:14-16) Then demonstrate your appreciation for all that Christ has done by having as full a share in the preaching work as your circumstances allow.

11 **Encourage Others to Be Thorough:** By participating in the auxiliary pioneer service, elders and ministerial servants are in a good position to encourage others. When working with publishers in the field ministry and when making shepherding calls, they have fine opportunities personally to help others to have a full share in this special activity. May all of us make this a matter of prayer, thus adding force to our united efforts in giving a thorough witness.

12 While all elders and ministerial servants will cooperate with congregation arrangements for increased activity during the months of March and April, the service overseer in particular should be concerned with coordinating the evangelizing work. He should organize field service locations, days, and times that are convenient for the majority of the publishers and have these announced regularly. Arrangements may be made to meet at a number of different times during the day, giving all in the congregation an opportunity to share in various forms of witnessing. These might include working business territory, witnessing on the street, calling from house to house, making return visits, and witnessing by telephone. In addition, he should arrange for an ample supply of literature, magazines, and territory to be available during those months.

13 The offer for March will be the *Knowledge* book, with the goal of starting Bible studies. Fine suggestions for offering the *Knowledge* book appeared in the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. April's offer will be the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Try to utilize the suggested presentations appearing in "What to Say About the Magazines." All should take time to prepare well so as to give a thorough witness.

14 How blessed we are to work under the direction of the Head of the congregation, Christ Jesus, and have the privilege of sharing the good news with others! As the months of March and April approach, let us once again strive to make them our best months ever as we obey Christ's order to preach and give a thorough witness.

Help at the Right Time

1 When the apostle Peter saw a need to strengthen fellow believers, concern moved him to give them loving reminders and encouragement. (2 Pet. 1:12, 13; 3:1) He urged 'those who had obtained a faith' to keep growing in spiritual qualities so as not to become "either inactive or unfruitful regarding the accurate knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 1: 1, 5-8) Peter's purpose was to help them make the calling and choosing they had received from Jehovah sure, so that they might "be found finally by him spotless and unblemished and in peace." (2 Pet. 1:10, 11; 3:14) For many, his encouragement proved to be help at the right time.

2 Today, Christian overseers have similar concern for God's people. In these "critical times hard to deal with," many servants of Jehovah must contend with trying circumstances. (2 Tim. 3:1) Because of ongoing financial, family, or personal problems, some may feel as did David: "Calamities encircled me until there was no numbering of them. More errors of mine overtook me than I was able to see; they became more numerous than the hairs of my head, and my own heart left me." (Ps. 40:12) These pressures can become so great that such ones may neglect vital spiritual matters and stop having an active share in the Christian ministry. Yet, despite their difficulties, 'they have not forgotten Jehovah's own commandments.' (Ps. 119:176) Now is the right time for elders to provide such ones with needed help.—Isa. 32:1, 2.

3 To meet this need, the elders have been encouraged to make a special effort to assist those who are not currently having a share in the preaching work. A concerted effort to accomplish this is now in progress and will extend through the month of March. Book study overseers are being asked to visit inactive ones to offer spiritual assistance with a view to helping them renew their activity with the congregation. Where there is a need, a personal Bible study may be arranged. Others may be asked to assist. If you are invited to do so, your efforts could be very beneficial, especially if you give encouragement in a kind, understanding way.

4 There is reason for all to rejoice when someone resumes his activity with the congregation. (Luke 15:6) Our efforts to encourage inactive ones may truly result in "a word spoken at the right time for it." —Prov. 25:11.

New Arrangement for Kingdom Hall Libraries

For many years now, congregations throughout the world have benefited from the use of their Kingdom Hall library, formerly called Theocratic Ministry School library. In the past, it was deemed necessary that each congregation acquire its own library. However, with many Kingdom Halls now being used by more than one congregation, some of which are foreign-language congregations, it seems best to have only one well-equipped, up-to-date Kingdom Hall library per language group in each Kingdom Hall. In Kingdom Halls that have more than one auditorium, each auditorium should have a library for each language group meeting there.

It is expected that this arrangement will help conserve space and expense. Moreover, merging the libraries of two or more congregations will most likely bring about better libraries. As these are combined, duplicate copies of books may be stored and later used when new Kingdom Halls are built. If the Kingdom Hall is equipped with a computer with *Watchtower Library* on CD-ROM, some may find this tool very beneficial.

For each Kingdom Hall library, one brother, preferably one of the Theocratic Ministry School overseers, will serve as the librarian. He should progressively add appropriate publications to the collection, neatly marking the inside cover of each one to show that it belongs to the Kingdom Hall library. At least once a year, he should check the library for completeness and ensure that the publications are in good condition. Publications from these libraries should not be taken out of the Kingdom Hall.

The Kingdom Hall library continues to be greatly appreciated by all those associated with the congregation. May we show that we personally value this provision by taking care of it and by using it to search out "the very knowledge of God." —Prov. 2:5.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 24, 2003. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of January 6 through February 24, 2003. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. *True or False:* The key to accurate reading is making sure that what is read sounds right, even if it differs slightly from what is written. Explain. [*be* p. 83]
2. *Fill in the Blanks:* In order to read accurately, one must ________, ________, ________ and do so out loud. [*be* p. 85]
3. Why is it important to speak clearly? (1 Cor. 14:8, 9) [*be* p. 86]
4. What are some things that can make speech indistinct, and what can we do in order to speak more clearly? [*be* pp. 87-8]
5. What are some words used in the Theocratic Ministry School during the preceding two months that you feel you need to practice pronouncing correctly? [*be* p. 92]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. *True or False:* Our eyes can help us to listen. Explain. [*be* p. 14]
7. *Fill in the Blanks:* The ________, the ________, and the ________ all serve as divinely provided time indicators. [*si* p. 279 par. 7]
8. *Fill in the Blanks:* In Biblical usage, the term "day" can refer to a period of ________ hours, ________ hours, ________ years, or ________, the context indicating the sense in which it applies. [*si* p. 279 par. 8]
9. How can the examples of Hannah, Mark, and Elijah help us to cope with discouragement? How can we use these examples to help others? [*w*01 2/1 pp. 20-3]
10. How does an understanding of ancient athletic games shed light on certain Bible verses? How should this information affect our lives? [*w*01 1/1 pp. 28-31]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. *True or False:* Since God's Kingdom was established in heaven in 1914, it is no longer proper to pray, "Let your kingdom come." (Matt. 6:10) Explain. [*be* p. 279; *w*96 6/1 p. 31]
12. *True or False:* Jesus' words recorded at Matthew 11:24 mean that those whom Jehovah destroyed by fire in Sodom and Gomorrah will be resurrected. Explain.
13. *Multiple Choice:* The faithful and discreet slave mentioned by Jesus at Matthew 24:45-47 is (a) the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses; (b) all anointed Christians as a group on earth at any given time; (c) Jesus Christ himself. This slave supplies spiritual food at the proper time to the "domestics," who represent (a) anointed ones as individuals; (b) the other sheep; (c) all readers of Christian publications. The Master appointed the slave over all his belongings in the year (a) 1914; (b) 33 C.E.; (c) 1919.
14. *Multiple Choice:* The dragnet spoken of in Jesus' illustration at Matthew 13:47-50 has included both the congregation of anointed Christians and (a) God's Messianic Kingdom; (b) their other sheep companions; (c) Christendom.
15. According to Jesus' words recorded at Matthew 5:24, what should you do if you sense that you have offended a fellow worshiper? [*g*96 2/8 pp. 26-7]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **February:** The new book *Draw Close to Jehovah* will be featured. **March:** Feature the *Knowledge* book, with an effort to start home Bible studies. **April and May:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When making return visits on interested people, which may include calling on those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing *Worship the Only True God.* Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially if some individuals have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure.
- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read. Read any acknowledgment of contributions the congregation has made to the worldwide work and to any other fund sponsored by the organization.
- The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review the annual S-201 letters.
- The special public talk for the 2003 Memorial season will be "Has Babylon's Judgment Hour Arrived?" See related announcement in the September 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*
- Since the arrangement for personal subscriptions through the mail was discontinued, it is important for congregations to release the latest issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* as soon as they are received. That will allow the publishers to become familiar with the content before offering the magazines in field service.
- U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office within 30 days after reaching 18 years of age. A male noncitizen under the age of 26 who takes up residency in the United States must also register with Selective Service within 30 days of becoming a resident. All of those required to do so should comply with this law, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. From the time he registers until the year he turns 26, a brother must notify Selective Service of any change of address within ten days of the change. Elders should be aware of young brothers nearing the age of 18 and new alien residents between the ages of 18 and 26 and remind them of their duty to register with the Selective Service System.
- When working unassigned territory, publishers may offer the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. Any other publication may be offered if the householder already has these two publications. All should carry a variety of tracts for not-at-homes or individuals who do not accept literature. Efforts should be made to follow up interest, especially where unassigned territories are accessible to nearby congregations.

A Video That Will Enlighten and Inspire You!

It was April 1951. Thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses in the former Soviet Union—entire families—were rounded up, loaded into boxcars, and exiled to Siberia. Why was the mighty Soviet government bent on stamping them out? How did our brothers survive and even prosper despite decades of unrelenting persecution? You will find the answers in the video *Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union.* Watch it, and let its enlightening message inspire you to maintain your faithfulness to Jehovah, no matter what!

Can you answer these questions? **(1)** When did Jehovah's Witnesses first get official recognition in Russia? **(2)** Before and after World War II, how did the Soviet Union come to have thousands more Witness families? **(3)** How were their beliefs in direct conflict with Lenin's philosophy? **(4)** What was Operation North, and what did Stalin hope to accomplish by means of it? **(5)** What did exile mean for the Witnesses, and what were they told to do in order to avoid being exiled? **(6)** On the long train trip to Siberia, how did our brothers and sisters encourage one another and surprise their captors? **(7)** What miseries did the Witnesses endure in Siberia? **(8)** What spiritual provision did Jehovah's people highly value, and why? **(9)** Why were our brothers willing to risk their lives for the sake of their literature, and how did they prevail over the relentless efforts of the authorities to prevent their receiving it? **(10)** How did Khrushchev continue the attack on God's people? **(11)** How did the authorities try to destroy the faith of Witness children? **(12)** What clear understanding did our brothers have of the reason why they were persecuted? (*2002 Yearbook,* pages 203-4) **(13)** How did the all-out attack on God's organization backfire on the persecutors? (*2002 Yearbook,* pages 220-1) **(14)** What things were realized that were once only dreams for Witnesses in the former Soviet Union? **(15)** What was it that brought our brothers through their trials, and how does the last scene of the video depict the truthfulness of Jeremiah 1:19? **(16)** Relate one of the true-life experiences of faithfulness under trial that especially inspires you.

What Is Your Priority?

[1] Many religious organizations place emphasis on doing charitable works, such as providing facilities for secular education or medical needs. Jehovah's Witnesses, however, while not forgetting "the doing of good and the sharing of things with others," give priority to helping people spiritually.—Heb. 13:16.

[2] **The First-Century Pattern:** Jesus did many good works during his earthly ministry, but his primary work was that of bearing witness to the truth. (Luke 4:43; John 18:37; Acts 10:38) He commanded his followers to "go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, . . . teaching them." (Matt. 28:19, 20) And he indicated that those exercising faith in him would carry out on a much larger scale the work that he had initiated. (John 14:12) Jesus gave priority to the preaching work because it helps people to learn the way of salvation.—John 17:3.

[3] The apostle Paul viewed his preaching activity as a "necessity," a requirement that he could not ignore. (1 Cor. 9:16, 17) He was willing to make any sacrifice, endure any trial, or suffer any hardship necessary in order to accomplish his ministry. (Acts 20:22-24) The apostle Peter and his associates showed a like spirit. Even in the face of imprisonment and beatings, "they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus." —Acts 5:40-42.

[4] What about us? Do we give priority to the work of proclaiming the Kingdom good news and making disciples? Like Jesus, do we have real concern for those who are "skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd"? (Matt. 9:36) Current world events and Bible prophecy clearly establish that time is running out for this wicked system! Having in focus the importance of the preaching work will move us to continue preaching zealously.

[5] **Evaluate Your Circumstances:** Since personal circumstances often change, it is good periodically to consider if we can make adjustments so as to have a fuller share in the preaching work. One sister had been a regular pioneer during the '50's, '60's, and '70's but found it necessary to stop because of poor health. In time, however, her health improved. She recently reevaluated her circumstances and determined that she could pioneer again. How happy she was to attend the Pioneer Service School at the age of 90! How about you? Are you nearing retirement or graduation? Might your changed circumstances allow you to pioneer?

[6] When Jesus observed that Martha "was distracted with attending to many duties," he kindly suggested that she would reap greater blessings if she kept things simple. (Luke 10:40-42) Can you simplify your lifestyle? Is it really necessary for both husband and wife to be secularly employed? If adjustments are made, can the family live on just one income? Many have benefited spiritually by making adjustments so as to have a greater share in the ministry.

[7] May all of us follow the pattern set by Jesus and the apostles! We can be certain of Jehovah's blessing on our genuine endeavors to have a full share in the vital work of preaching the good news of the Kingdom. —Luke 9:57-62.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Feb. 15**

"Some people wonder if there is a personal God. Others say he exists but feel that he is far off from them. Have you noted this? [Allow for response.] Notice why coming to know God personally is so important. [Read John 17:3.] In this regard, you will find the opening articles in this issue interesting."

Awake! Feb. 22

"Do you think that God meant for humans, including children, to suffer from malnutrition? [Allow for response.] Note this comforting promise found in the Bible. [Read Psalm 72:16.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses the causes of malnutrition and, more important, God's promise to end it soon."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Mar. 1**

"We would like your opinion on this interesting scripture. [Read Matthew 5:10.] How can a person be happy when he is being persecuted? [Allow for response.] The first two articles in this magazine tell of some who maintained happiness in spite of their suffering. You will be interested to read how they did so."

Awake! Mar. 8

"Wouldn't you agree that despite life's problems we still have reason to be thankful? [Allow for response.] One reason to be thankful is the way we are made. [Read Psalm 139:14.] How grateful we can be to have the senses needed to appreciate life, as this issue of *Awake!* illustrates!"

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 3/03 Vol. 46, No. 3

Jehovah Is Very Much to Be Praised
The Lord's Evening Meal to Be Observed on April 16

[1] Anticipation mounts as we approach April 16, 2003. On that night we will commemorate Jesus' death, joining millions of fellow worshipers worldwide in glorifying Jehovah's name. Jehovah deserves all our praise for the wonderful provision of the ransom. By means of it, he will bestow marvelous blessings on all obedient mankind. Wholeheartedly we join with the psalmist in crying out: "Jehovah is great and very much to be praised."—Ps. 145:3.

[2] This is a time for meditating on God's goodness and the debt of gratitude we owe Jehovah for sending "his only-begotten Son into the world that we might gain life through him." (1 John 4:9, 10) Obediently observing the Lord's Evening Meal impresses upon our hearts that "Jehovah is gracious and merciful . . . and great in loving-kindness." (Ps. 145:8) Indeed, the ransom is Jehovah's greatest expression of love toward all mankind. (John 3:16) When we reflect on God's love and contemplate Jesus' faithful course of integrity, we are moved to praise Jehovah. Throughout eternity, we will praise him for his unbounded love expressed in making everlasting life possible for us.—Ps. 145:1, 2.

[3] **Help Others to Praise Jehovah:** Appreciation for God's superlative gift of the ransom moves us to invite others to join us in praising Jehovah. The psalmist was inspired to write: "With the mention of the abundance of your goodness they will bubble over, and because of your righteousness they will cry out joyfully." (Ps. 145:7) Last year alone, Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide devoted more than a billion hours to the preaching work. What resulted from their efforts? Each week, an average of more than 5,100 individuals were baptized in symbol of their dedication to Jehovah. With a total of 15,597,746 in attendance at the Memorial, including over 9 million who have not yet begun to praise Jehovah as publishers of the good news, there is great potential for further increase! As Kingdom proclaimers, we cherish *our* privilege of declaring the good news and turning the hearts of others toward Jehovah, his Son, and the Kingdom.

[4] A fine way to encourage others to honor Jehovah is by inviting them to join us in observing the Lord's Evening Meal. Have you made a list of all those you want to invite as well as others who may need to be reminded of the day and hour? Have you offered an invitation to all those on your list? If not, diligently follow through in the time remaining. Help them appreciate the purpose of the celebration. At the observance, be alert to greet visitors. Make them feel welcome, introduce them to others, and commend them for being present.

[5] Attending the Memorial can stimulate new ones to make spiritual progress. A Bible student who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, which makes it very difficult for him to go out in public, came to the Memorial. When asked what he thought of the meeting, he said: "It was a most holy night, and I was there." Since then, he has started attending meetings.

[6] **After the Memorial:** What can be done to help these interested ones to become praisers of Jehovah? The elders will take note of the new ones who attend the Memorial and make arrangements for qualified publishers to visit them soon afterward to review the refreshing things they learned and observed. Some may wish to have a home Bible study. They should also be invited to attend all the weekly congregation meetings, since regular attendance can increase their Bible knowledge.

[7] Arrangements are being made to encourage all irregular and inactive ones to attend meetings regularly. If you are asked by the elders to assist someone who has become inactive to resume sharing in field service, be ready to respond. Showing such loving concern for our brothers is in harmony with the apostle Paul's exhortation: "As long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to us in the faith."—Gal. 6:10.

[8] May all of us make a special effort to be at the Memorial on April 16. We would not want to miss this most sacred occasion to praise Jehovah. Yes, now and forever, let us praise Jehovah for his great works!—Ps. 145:21.

Service Meeting Schedule

Week Starting March 10

Song 5

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, demonstrate how to present the March 15 *Watchtower* and the March 22 *Awake!* In each presentation, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured.

15 min: Benefiting From the *2003 Yearbook*. Talk and audience discussion. Discuss highlights of "A Letter From the Governing Body," on pages 3-5. Arrange in advance for a few to relate reports and experiences that they found especially encouraging and faith strengthening. Mention highlights from the worldwide report. Encourage families to read the entire book progressively during the year. Suggest ways we can use the book to direct new ones to Jehovah's organization and encourage them to attend meetings.

20 min: "Be Zealous for What Is Good!"* (Paragraphs 1-12) After discussing paragraph 6, briefly demonstrate publisher inviting a relative, neighbor, schoolmate, or workmate to the Memorial, using the printed invitation. If not already done, the printed Memorial invitations should be made available following the meeting.

Song 19 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 17

Song 34

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Be Wise in Choosing Your Associates. Talk by an elder based on the February 22, 1997, *Awake!*, page 13, and the material under the heading "Bad Associations" on page 189 of the *Reasoning* book. Show how the principles apply to both youths and adults. Highlight the benefits of choosing as friends those who love Jehovah and who demonstrate that they are striving to adhere to his standards.

20 min: "Be Zealous for What Is Good!"* (Paragraphs 13-26) To be handled by presiding overseer. When considering paragraph 14, have a brief demonstration of an elder making an encouraging visit on an infirm brother, during which he kindly explains how the brother can share in the congregation's increased activity during the Memorial season.

Song 53 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 24

Song 72

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8, demonstrate how to present the April 1 *Watchtower* and the April 8 *Awake!*

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Jehovah's Witnesses—A Force for Good in the Community. Talk and audience discussion. At times we have opportunity to point out how our ministry and example benefit the community. Invite audience to comment on the following points: (1) We teach people to live by Bible standards of morality. (2) We teach honesty and respect for authority. (3) We teach harmony between races, nationalities, and social groups. (4) We help others to improve their family life by encouraging them to apply Bible principles. (5) We have taught thousands how to read and write. (6) We extend ourselves to help others in times of disaster. (7) We have been instrumental in securing religious freedoms that are enjoyed by all.—See *Proclaimers* book, page 699.

Song 121 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 31

Song 130

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in March field service reports. Mention literature offer for April, especially noting that a special effort should be made to start Bible studies in the *Worship God* book with those who have already studied the *Knowledge* book and *Require* brochure. Discuss main points in "Memorial Reminders."

15 min: Local experiences. Invite congregation to relate experiences enjoyed during the increased activity that took place in March. Commend them for their efforts, and encourage all to share as fully as their circumstances permit during April.

20 min: "Jehovah Is Very Much to Be Praised."* Emphasize the importance of the Memorial. Show how all can be helpful in assisting others to be present. Explain what can be done to contact inactive ones to revive their interest. Invite audience to relate any encouraging experiences from last year's observance.

Song 173 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 7

Song 191

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: How to Reason From the Scriptures. Audience discussion. How can we develop the ability to reason effectively with people in the ministry? (1) Acquire a sound *knowledge of the Scriptures* through regular personal study and meeting attendance. (2) *Meditate* on what you learn, exploring truths from various standpoints. (3) Seek not only explanations of scriptures but also *Scriptural reasons* for them. (4) Consider how you would explain scriptures *to various types of people.* (5) Give thought to how you might *illustrate* certain points.

20 min: "How the Truth Sets Us Free."* Include comments on the box on page 6 of the October 1, 1998, *Watchtower.* Invite audience to comment on how the truths from God's Word have brought them freedom.

Song 217 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

December Service Report

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**186**	**107.9**	**97.3**	**48.9**	**4.7**
Pios.	**90,654**	**63.0**	**42.5**	**20.7**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**18,655**	**48.6**	**34.8**	**13.2**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**895,241**	**8.9**	**8.0**	**3.5**	**0.3**

TOTAL **1,004,736** Baptized: **2,045**

It is a pleasure to note that the total number of publishers reporting for the month of December was 1,004,736! This is the third time that we have reported over a million publishers.

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Be Zealous for What Is Good!

¹ As we enter the 2003 Memorial season, we have abundant reasons to be "zealous for what is good." (1 Pet. 3:13) Foremost among these is the ransom sacrifice of Jesus Christ. (Matt. 20:28; John 3:16) Concerning this, the apostle Peter wrote: "It was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were delivered from your fruitless form of conduct. . . . But it was with precious blood, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, even Christ's." (1 Pet. 1:18, 19) Gratitude for this extraordinary expression of love compels us to busy ourselves in the doing of good, recognizing that Jesus "gave himself for us that he might deliver us from every sort of lawlessness and cleanse for himself a people peculiarly his own, zealous for fine works."—Titus 2:14; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15.

² When we do what is pleasing in God's eyes, we enjoy a good relationship with him and come under his loving watchcare. Peter further stated: "He that would love life and see good days, . . . let him turn away from what is bad and do what is good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of Jehovah are upon the righteous ones, and his ears are toward their supplication." (1 Pet. 3:10-12) In these perilous times, what a blessing it is to know that Jehovah is keeping watch over us and is ready to act in our behalf, "to safeguard [us] as the pupil of his eye."—Deut. 32:10; 2 Chron. 16:9.

Memorial Attendance Worldwide

1999	14,088,751
2000	14,872,086
2001	15,374,986
2002	15,597,746

³ Despite facing trials, the early Christians to whom Peter wrote were fired with zeal that could not be quenched, and they gave the good news the widest possible proclamation. (1 Pet. 1:6; 4:12) The same is true of God's people today. Although we live in "critical times hard to deal with," appreciation for Jehovah's goodness moves us to do God's will zealously. (2 Tim. 3:1; Ps. 145:7) Let us consider some of the good works with which we will busy ourselves during this Memorial season.

⁴ **Invite Others to the Memorial:** One way we can show our appreciation for the extraordinary gift of the ransom is to be present for the annual commemoration of Jesus' death, which will be observed this year on Wednesday, April 16, after sundown. (Luke 22:19, 20) Last year, with 94,600 congregations reporting worldwide, we had a grand total attendance of 15,597,746! That was over 220,000 more than attended the year before.

⁵ How many will attend this year? Much will depend on our diligent efforts to encourage others to assemble with us. Start by making a list of all those you would like to invite. At the top of the list should be your immediate family. If you have an unbelieving mate, express your heartfelt desire that he or she attend with you. One unbelieving husband said that he attended the Memorial last year because he could see how much his presence meant to his wife. Next on your list could be relatives, neighbors, workmates, or schoolmates. Be certain to invite your Bible students.

⁶ After making your list, schedule time to extend a personal invitation to each one. Use the printed Memorial invitations. To help people remember when and where the observance will be held, type or neatly print the time and location of the Memorial at the bottom of the invitation. As April 16 draws near, give those on your list a reminder, either in person or by telephone. Let us help as many as possible to be present for this most sacred occasion.

[7] **Assist Those Who Attend the Memorial:** The night of the Memorial is always an exciting occasion. We have the opportunity to welcome individuals who do not normally attend our meetings. Make arrangements to arrive early and stay late, as local circumstances allow. Take the initiative to get acquainted with the new ones in attendance. Be warm and hospitable. —Rom. 12:13.

[8] Could some who attend the Memorial be helped to make greater spiritual progress through a home Bible study? Endeavor to obtain names and addresses of any visitors who are not currently being called on so that you can follow through. With loving assistance, some of these may progress to the point of qualifying as unbaptized publishers before next year's Memorial. When making follow-up visits on Memorial attenders, extend an invitation to the special talk to be given on April 27.

[9] **Can You Auxiliary Pioneer This Spring?** Each year our zeal for Jehovah moves us to exert ourselves fully in the ministry during the months of special theocratic activity. The unified efforts of an entire congregation to preach the good news zealously during the Memorial season can produce fine results.

Who Will You Invite to the Memorial?

☐ Immediate family and relatives
☐ Neighbors and acquaintances
☐ Workmates and schoolmates
☐ Return visits and Bible students

[10] One congregation of 107 publishers and 9 regular pioneers reported that they had a "phenomenal month" last April, with 53 serving as auxiliary pioneers, including all the elders and ministerial servants. How did the elders build enthusiasm for auxiliary pioneering that month? They started early, encouraging as many as possible to enroll. Meetings for field service were held at various times during the day to accommodate all in the congregation. Special emphasis was given to telephone witnessing, especially for the infirm.

[11] One 86-year-old sister, who is unable to walk because of health problems, signed up to auxiliary pioneer. Starting in the morning, she would do a couple of hours of telephone witnessing while sitting at the kitchen table, rest for a few hours, and then come back and do some more. One person she contacted had lost her husband and two teenage sons in death during the past two years and could not understand why God permits such evil things to happen. A good witness was given, and a Bible study was started. Telephone witnessing in the evenings and at other times is an effective way to contact people who live in buildings or areas that are inaccessible. It also enables publishers to contact people who are not at home during the day.

[12] The elders concluded their report by saying: "We had such a wonderful time and appreciate the privileges and blessings Jehovah has made possible for each of us." With proper planning, your congregation too can enjoy such blessings.

[13] **Strive for 100-Percent Participation in the Ministry:** Our love for God and neighbor moves us to buy out time each month to share the good news with others. (Matt. 22:37-39) Congregation Book Study overseers and their assistants should endeavor to assist those in their group to share in the ministry each month. A fine way to do this is by making arrangements in advance to work in the ministry with specific individuals in the group. Rather than waiting until the end of the month to do this, start early. This will give you more opportunities to provide loving assistance.

[14] Are there infirm publishers in your book study group who have great difficulty sharing in the ministry? If some are in residential care facilities or are confined to their homes, it is understand-

able that their opportunities to witness will be limited. But by taking advantage of their limited opportunities to let their light shine, they may move those who see their fine works to take a real interest in the truth. (Matt. 5:16) Book study overseers should be sure that such ones know that they can report field service activity in increments of 15 minutes. Being able to report the time they spend witnessing encourages these faithful publishers, and it brings them joyful satisfaction. It also helps to ensure that the worldwide report of the activities of God's people is accurate.

[15] **Youths Who Are Busy Doing What Is Good!** How refreshing it is to see Christian youths use their strength and energy in the service of Jehovah! (Prov. 20:29) If you are young, how can you demonstrate your zeal for Jehovah during these special months of activity?

[16] If you are not yet an unbaptized publisher in the congregation, can you reach out for that privilege? Ask yourself the following questions: 'Do I have a basic knowledge of Bible truth? Do I *want* to share in Kingdom service? Am I exemplary in my conduct? Am I able to make a personal expression of my faith by speaking to others about the good news? Am I moved from my heart to do so?' If you can answer yes to those questions, then speak to your parents about your desire to become a publisher. Your parents can approach one of the elders on the service committee.

[17] If you are already a publisher of the good news, can you take advantage of time off from school to expand your share in the ministry? With a good schedule and assistance from parents and others, many baptized youths have been able to auxiliary pioneer. If that is not possible, then be determined to increase your share in the field ministry. Set a goal for yourself. In addition to an hour goal, set another goal related to the quality of your ministry. Perhaps you can strive to share a scripture at each door, improve the quality of your return visits, start a Bible study, or expand your ministry to include telephone witnessing or some other feature of the service. What about the goal of having a neighbor, schoolmate, or relative accompany you to the Memorial this year? Having a full share in theocratic activities will be rewarding and will surely encourage others in the congregation.—1 Thess. 5:11.

Assist Those Who Attend the Memorial

- ☐ Extend a warm welcome
- ☐ Make follow-up visits
- ☐ Offer them a Bible study
- ☐ Invite them to the special talk

[18] **Help New Ones Progress:** During the past service year, an average of over 463,000 home Bible studies were conducted each month in the United States. In time, many of these students will progress to the point of dedication and baptism. However, before they reach that goal, we need to help them to qualify as publishers of the good news. This is an important step in teaching new ones to be followers of Jesus Christ. (Matt. 9:9; Luke 6:40) Do you have a Bible student who is ready to take that step?

[19] If you are unsure of your student's progress, seek the assistance of your book study overseer or the service overseer. Perhaps you can invite him to sit in on the study. These brothers have valuable experience that can be drawn upon to evaluate the student's spiritual progress. They may have suggestions that will help the student to continue growing spiritually.

[20] When your student expresses an interest in becoming an unbaptized publisher and you feel that he qualifies, speak with the presiding overseer. He will arrange to have two elders meet with you and the student to consider whether he qualifies, using the information on pages 98-9 of the

Our Ministry book. (See *The Watchtower,* November 15, 1988, page 17.) If the student is approved to be a publisher, you should begin his training right away. Once he turns in a field service report, the congregation will be informed that the student is an unbaptized publisher. It is our hope that thousands of new publishers, both young and old, can reach this important milestone during these special months of activity.

[21] **Planning Helps to Accomplish the Most Good:** Advance planning will contribute to the success of our theocratic activities during this Memorial season. (Prov. 21:5) There are many matters that need attention on the part of the elders.

[22] To help the congregation accomplish the most in the field ministry, elders should make practical arrangements to hold meetings for field service throughout the week and on the weekend. The service overseer should take the lead in making these arrangements. Could additional meetings be arranged for early morning, late afternoon, or early evening? The congregation should be informed of the arrangements. It may be helpful if the schedule is posted on the information board.

[23] The elders should see to it that arrangements for the Memorial are in place well in advance of April 16. These include coordinating the use of the Kingdom Hall with other congregations that may meet there, cleaning the Kingdom Hall, selecting attendants and servers, and obtaining the emblems. The congregation should be informed of the time and location of the Memorial and of any adjustments in the meeting schedule for the week. Diligently caring for these things will allow the observance to "take place decently and by arrangement."—1 Cor. 14:40.

[24] Family heads may want to use part of their family study to discuss how the family can share in the increased activity during the Memorial season. Can your entire family auxiliary pioneer? Or could the family support one or more members in doing so? If that is not possible, set specific goals as a family to spend more time in the ministry. Is there a younger member of the family who, with a little encouragement and assistance, could qualify as an unbaptized publisher? How many can your family invite to the Memorial this year? Good planning will bring many blessings and joys to your family.

What Are Your Goals for the Memorial Season?

☐ Have someone you invited attend the Memorial

☐ Qualify as a publisher of the good news

☐ Spend a certain number of hours in the ministry

☐ Improve in a certain feature of the ministry

☐ Serve as an auxiliary pioneer

[25] **Take Full Advantage of Time Remaining:** In writing to the first-century Christians, the apostle Peter reminded them of the urgency of the times because the end of the Jewish system of things had drawn close. (1 Pet. 4:7) Today all the evidence indicates that the end of the present global system of things is at hand. Day by day, our pattern of life should reflect that conviction. As zealous servants of Jehovah, we should be focused on the urgent work of declaring the good news. —Titus 2:13, 14.

[26] Now is a time for zeal and action! Meditate on what Jehovah has done for you, your family, and the congregation. Although we can never repay him for the many ways he has benefited us, we can give Jehovah whole-souled worship. (Ps. 116:12-14) Our diligent efforts will be rewarded with blessings from on high. (Prov. 10:22) May we all be "zealous for what is good" during this special time of increased activity, "so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."—1 Pet. 3:13; 4:11.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **March:** Feature the *Knowledge* book, with an effort to start home Bible studies. **April and May:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Publishers should indicate to householders that they may contribute to the worldwide work if they so desire. When making return visits on interested people, concentrate on placing *Worship the Only True God.* Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially if some individuals have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. **June:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock.
- Publishers who wish to serve as auxiliary pioneers in April should make their plans now and turn in their application early. This will help the elders to make necessary field service arrangements and have sufficient magazines and other literature on hand. The names of all who are approved to auxiliary pioneer should be announced to the congregation each month.
- The branch office does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the branch so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.
- It is important that groups of 20 or more persons planning to visit the branch office facilities first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. The Central Tour Desk will care for groups that will be visiting the branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, or the Assembly Hall at Jersey City, New Jersey. Please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. The branch office will provide a description of the tours that are available as well as a map giving directions to each location. LODGING INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CONGREGATION ELDERS AND MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONGREGATION SECRETARY. Before your visit, please review the June 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box regarding proper dress and grooming when visiting Bethel homes.
- A packet of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters in which our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation, helpful information can be found in *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12; in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14; and on the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.
- The secretary should see that the Regional Building Committee is kept up-to-date on the status of all baptized publishers who have submitted Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire (S-82) forms. When there are adjustments in a volunteer's status, such as when one moves or is appointed as a ministerial servant or an elder, new forms should be filled out promptly and submitted. If a volunteer's mailing address or telephone number changes or if he is no longer in good standing in the congregation, the elders should immediately inform the Regional Building Committee by letter.

Memorial Reminders

The Memorial observance this year falls on Wednesday, April 16. The elders should give attention to the following matters:

- In setting the time for the meeting, make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.
- Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and location of the observance.
- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready.—See the February 15, 1985, *Watchtower,* page 19.
- Plates, glasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and set up in advance.
- The Kingdom Hall or other meeting place should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.
- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about their duties, the proper procedure to be followed, and the need for dignified dress and grooming.
- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and are thus unable to be present.
- When more than one congregation is scheduled to use the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby or entryway, on the public sidewalks, and in the parking lot. Where possible, it is good to allow 45 minutes between observances.

How the Truth Sets Us Free

1 On a certain occasion, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him: "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32) He was speaking of a freedom that surpasses mere civil liberties, a freedom that is available to all—rich or poor, educated or uneducated. Jesus taught truth that would bring freedom from bondage to sin and death. As Jesus explained, "every doer of sin is a slave of sin." (John 8:34) How we do long for the time when all obedient humans "will be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God"! —Rom. 8:21.

2 The truth regarding Jesus and his role in the outworking of God's purpose brings such freedom. It includes knowledge about the ransom sacrifice that he gave in our behalf. (Rom. 3:24) Even now, accepting and obediently submitting to Bible truth enables us to enjoy a measure of freedom from fear, despair, and all sorts of harmful practices.

3 **Freedom From Fear and Despair:** We need not despair over world conditions because we understand why wickedness exists and we know that it will soon be wiped off the earth. (Ps. 37:10, 11; 2 Tim. 3:1; Rev. 12:12) Furthermore, the truth frees us from false teachings about the condition of the dead. We know that the dead cannot harm us, that they are not suffering eternal torment, and that God does not take people in death just to have them with him in the spirit realm.—Eccl. 9:5; Acts 24:15.

4 Such truth sustained a father and a mother when their child was killed in an accident. "There is a void in our lives that cannot be filled until we see our son again by means of the resurrection," said the mother. "But we know our pain is only temporary."

5 **Freedom From Harmful Practices:** Bible truth can transform a person's thinking and personality, resulting in freedom from avoidable problems. (Eph. 4:20-24) Practicing honesty and industriousness can help alleviate poverty. (Prov. 13:4) Showing self-sacrificing love improves relationships with others. (Col. 3:13, 14) Respecting Christian headship minimizes family difficulties. (Eph. 5:33–6:1) Avoiding drunkenness, sexual immorality, tobacco, and addictive drugs promotes good health.—Prov. 7: 21-23; 23:29, 30; 2 Cor. 7:1.

6 A young man had been unable to break a nine-year addiction to drugs. One day he met a publisher engaged in street witnessing. He accepted literature, and arrangements were made to call on him at his home. A Bible study was started. Two months later the man stopped using drugs altogether, and after eight months of study, he was baptized. Seeing him break free from his addiction prompted his brother and sister-in-law to start studying the Bible.

7 **Help Others Gain Freedom:** Those who have been lifelong captives to false teachings may find it difficult to comprehend the freedom offered by God's Word. Reaching their hearts may require special diligence and good preparation on the part of the teacher. (2 Tim. 4: 2, 5) This is no time to slow down in our work of 'proclaiming liberty to those taken captive.' (Isa. 61:1) Christian freedom is precious, for it leads to everlasting life.—1 Tim. 4:16.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Mar. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Do you think that Jesus' teachings are practical for our time? [Allow for response.] You will no doubt agree with this command that Jesus gave on the last day of his life. [Read John 15:12.] Jesus also taught other valuable lessons that day. This issue of *The Watchtower* shows how we can benefit from them."

Awake! Mar. 22

"Have you noticed that nowadays many people find it difficult to get enough sleep? [Allow for response.] Anxiety or worry can contribute to this. [Read Ecclesiastes 5:12.] This magazine examines some of the causes of insomnia, and it provides practical tips on how we can improve our sleep habits."

THE WATCHTOWER Apr. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Shown here is the meal traditionally called the Last Supper. [Show front and back of magazine.] Did you know that it is the only event Christians are commanded to memorialize? [Allow for response. Then read Luke 22:19.] This magazine explains why this observance is so important and how it affects you."

Awake! Apr. 8

"Isn't it tragic that many young lives have been ruined by drugs? [Allow for response.] Often problems start when youths associate with the wrong crowd. [Read 1 Corinthians 15:33.] This issue of *Awake!* examines what influences young people to start using drugs and what parents can do to protect them."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 4/03 Vol. 46, No. 4

"Shining as Illuminators"

[1] Amid the spiritual and moral darkness of the present system of things, some six million worshipers of the true God, Jehovah, are "shining as illuminators" in 234 lands worldwide. (Phil. 2:15) This causes us to stand out. How do we reflect the precious light of truth that emanates from Jehovah?—2 Cor. 3:18.

[2] **Our Actions:** People are quick to notice our conduct. (1 Pet. 2:12) One woman observed that a Witness coworker was kind and helpful and did not use foul language or laugh at unclean jokes. When others tried to provoke the Witness by using profanity in his presence, he remained calm yet firm for what is right. What effect did this have on the woman? She recalls: "I was so impressed with his conduct that I started asking questions about the Bible. I began studying God's Word and was later baptized." She adds: "It was his conduct that convinced me to examine the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses."

[3] Our attitude toward authority, our view of worldly practices, and our wholesome speech cause Jehovah's Witnesses to stand out as a people who live by the Bible's lofty standards. Such fine works can bring glory to Jehovah and attract others to his worship.

[4] **Our Words:** Of course, those who see our fine conduct may not know why we are different unless we speak to them about our beliefs. Do those with whom you work or attend school know that you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses? Do you look for opportunities to turn an ordinary conversation into a witness? Is it your resolve to "let your light shine before men" on every appropriate occasion?—Matt. 5:14-16.

[5] Fulfilling our commission as light-bearers calls for a spirit of self-sacrifice. A whole-souled attitude will move us to forgo less important things in order to do as much as we can in the lifesaving work of preaching and making disciples.—2 Cor. 12:15.

[6] By our actions and words, may we continue shining as illuminators. If we do, others may be moved to join us in giving glory to Jehovah.

"Make Room for It"

[1] Once, when speaking with his disciples about marriage, Jesus referred to singleness as 'a gift.' Then he said: "Let him that can make room for it make room for it." (Matt. 19:10-12) Some years later, the apostle Paul wrote about the advantages of singleness and encouraged others to follow his example in remaining unmarried. (1 Cor. 7:7, 38) Many today have 'made room' for singleness and are enjoying its advantages. What are some of these?

[2] **Serving "Without Distraction":** Paul understood that singleness afforded him the opportunity to serve Jehovah "without distraction." Likewise today, a single brother can reach out for Ministerial Training School, and a single person is generally freer to enter the pioneer work, learn another language, move to where the need is greater, serve at Bethel, or be available for other special privileges of service. He may have more time and opportunities to engage in deep personal study and meditation and to commune with Jehovah in heartfelt prayer. The unmarried person usually has more time to give of himself in assisting others. All such activity is to one's "personal advantage."—1 Cor. 7:32-35; Acts 20:35.

[3] Such undistracted service to God brings rich rewards. After 27 years in Kenya, a single sister wrote: "There were so many friends and such a lot of work! We did things together [and] visited one another. . . . I was able to use the extra freedom and mobility that singleness affords to keep busy in the ministry, and this has brought me great happiness." She added: "Over the years my relationship with Jehovah has deepened."

[4] **Making Room for It:** Jesus said that the motive for cultivating the gift of singleness should be "on account of the kingdom of the heavens." (Matt. 19:12) As with any gift, singleness must be used properly to bring joy and benefits. By seizing the opportunities that singleness brings and by relying on Jehovah for wisdom and strength, many unmarried people have come to understand the value of making room for the gift.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

NOTE: *Our Kingdom Ministry* will schedule a Service Meeting for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Give God Glory" District Convention. Where appropriate, use 15 minutes on the last Service Meeting before attending the convention to repeat pointed counsel from this month's insert that applies locally. During the month of October, an entire Service Meeting will be arranged to review highlights of the convention program. In preparation for that discussion, all of us can take meaningful notes at the convention, including a list of specific points that we wish to apply personally in our own life and in the field ministry. Then we can encourage others by explaining how we have applied the suggestions.

Week Starting April 14

Song 20

15 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to feature the April 15 *Watchtower* and the April 22 *Awake!* In each presentation, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured.

10 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

20 min: "Shining as Illuminators."* Conclude with a five-minute talk based on the June 1, 1997, *Watchtower,* pages 14-15, paragraphs 8-13. Emphasize why we avoid any secrecy when it comes to the Kingdom message. Song 134 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 21

Song 25

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: "Gathering Together to Praise Jehovah."* Use the questions that are provided. Urge all to be present for every session, from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon. Stress the need to apply what we learn rather than just to hear. Consider the note above regarding what is planned for a Service Meeting in October, when there will be a review of district convention highlights. Encourage all to take notes.

20 min: "Make Room for It."* Include interview of one or two who are making good use of their singleness to advance Kingdom interests. Have them comment on what helps them find contentment in their service.

Song 35 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 28

Song 51

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for April. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to feature the May 1 *Watchtower* and the May 8 *Awake!*

15 min: "Be an Example in Fine Works."* Use the questions that are provided. Stress the need to abide by the rooming arrangements that have been put in place for our benefit. Explain why good conduct on the part of everyone is essential.

20 min: "Return Visits Lead to Bible Studies."* To be handled by an elder, using the questions provided. Invite audience to include brief field service experiences that support the points being made. When discussing paragraph 5, reenact an experience from the local territory in which a Bible study was started.

Song 89 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 5

Song 120

10 min: Local announcements. Briefly review suggestions offered in the April 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 2, in the part entitled "Planning Ahead for Summer."

20 min: "Well-Arranged Dress Shows Reverence for God."* To be handled by an elder. Use the questions that are provided. Have each paragraph read aloud by a brother who is a capable reader.

15 min: A Good Report—A Cause for Rejoicing. (Prov. 15: 30) Audience discussion showing what the congregation accomplished as a result of the special effort put forth during March and April. Invite congregation to relate positive experiences they had in the following areas: (1) helping an interested one to attend the Memorial, (2) serving as an auxiliary pioneer, (3) encouraging an inactive publisher to resume his activity with the congregation, (4) helping a new one to begin publishing, and (5) cultivating the interest of those who attended the Memorial. Arrange some of these comments in advance. Give commendation, and encourage all to persevere in these efforts in the future.

Song 126 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	217	106.2	87.4	48.3	4.5
Pios.	89,325	64.7	41.9	21.8	1.9
Aux. Pios.	17,778	49.2	34.5	14.0	1.1
Pubs.	879,099	9.0	7.7	3.6	0.3
TOTAL	986,419		Baptized:	1,436	

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Gathering Together to Praise Jehovah

1 Jehovah is almighty in power, unsearchable in wisdom, perfect in justice, and the personification of love. As Creator, Life-Giver, and Universal Sovereign, he alone is worthy of our worship. (Ps. 36:9; Rev. 4:11; 15: 3, 4) This summer's "Give God Glory" District Convention will strengthen our resolve to praise him as the only true God.—Ps. 86: 8-10.

2 **Good Planning Needed:** For us to benefit fully from the spiritual feast Jehovah has in store, good planning is essential. (Eph. 5: 15, 16) Have you completed your arrangements for lodging, transportation, and time off from work or school? Do not leave these important matters to the last minute. If you delay in asking for time off, you may miss a portion of this joyful occasion. All of us need to be present for every session.

Listening at Conventions

- Ponder the talk titles
- Look up scriptures
- Take brief notes
- Isolate points to apply
- Review what you learn

3 Make it your aim to arrive early at the convention site each day. That will enable you to be settled in your seat before the opening song and will help you to be in the proper frame of mind to receive the instruction that is presented. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. each day. Please do not save seats other than for those in your immediate family or car group.

4 It is requested that all bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain food during the noon break. Your cooperation with this arrangement contributes to a peaceful atmosphere and allows more time for association with fellow believers. (Ps. 133: 1-3) Please bear in mind that glass containers and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the convention facilities.

5 **Listen and Learn:** Ezra prayerfully prepared his heart to receive the word of God. (Ezra 7:10) He inclined his heart to Jehovah's teachings. (Prov. 2:2) We can begin preparing our hearts for the convention even before we leave home by meditating on the convention theme and discussing it with our family.

6 In a large auditorium, there can be many sights and sounds to grab our attention. Such distractions can easily turn our minds away from the speaker. When that happens, valuable information is lost. The suggestions found in the accompanying box can help us to improve our concentration.

7 **Show Consideration for Others:** Cameras and camcorders may be used during the program, but to avoid distracting others, do so only from your seat. Cell phones and pagers must be set so that they do not disturb others. For the benefit of those who are hard-of-hearing, the program will be broadcast in the vicinity of the convention site via FM radio. An announcement providing necessary details will be made at the beginning of the first session. You will need to bring your own small FM receiver with earphones. No personal equipment should be connected to the convention site's electrical or sound systems.

8 How we look forward to gathering together to praise Jehovah! May we be determined to glorify him by attending every session, by listening attentively, and by applying what we learn.—Deut. 31:12.

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1. What is the convention theme, and why is Jehovah worthy of our praise?
2, 3. How will good planning enable us to benefit fully?
4. Why is it requested that all of us bring a lunch to the convention?

5. How can we begin preparing our hearts for the convention?
6. What can help us maintain our focus on the program? (See box.)
7, 8. How can we show consideration for others, and what provision is available for those who are hard-of-hearing?

Be an Example in Fine Works

¹ When we gather in large numbers at district conventions, the way we act and how we treat others become especially noticeable to onlookers. Each of us, therefore, needs to give special attention to the Bible's admonition: "Be sound in mind, in all things showing yourself an example of fine works." (Titus 2:6, 7) Extra effort may be required to 'keep an eye, not in personal interest upon just our own matters, but also in personal interest upon those of the others.' (Phil. 2:4) Let us consider some areas in which we can apply this encouragement at our upcoming "Give God Glory" District Convention.

² **Rooming Arrangements:** An excellent opportunity for us to display fine works is when making rooming arrangements. Please reserve only the hotel room you plan to use. Be sure to make the appropriate deposit in advance. During the busy check-in and checkout times, it is especially appreciated if we display the fruitage of God's spirit. (Gal. 5:22, 23) For example, it may not be possible for everyone to obtain a nonsmoking room, even if you requested this when you made your reservation.

Be Considerate of Others

- Reserve only the room you plan to use
- Be patient during check-in and checkout
- Do not abuse breakfast arrangements
- Properly supervise your children
- Leave an appropriate tip

³ Our personal interest in others should be seen in our use of any complimentary breakfast arrangements. It is not appropriate to take to the convention site food that has been provided for hotel guests. It is appreciated when we conscientiously observe hotel rules and show consideration for the staff by leaving in the room a customary tip. In these ways we "work what is good toward all" and thus give a fine witness to others.—Gal. 6:10.

⁴ **Parents and Children:** In a world where so many youths are ill-mannered, our children stand out as different, and this brings praise to Jehovah and his organization. At times, however, problems have resulted when children were not properly supervised. (Prov. 29:15) Parents should not leave their children unattended at the hotel, including the swimming pool, or at the convention site.

⁵ Before the convention some parents have found it helpful to review with their children the kind of behavior that is expected of them. (Eph. 6:4) They help their children understand that genuine Christian love "does not behave indecently" or "look for its own interests." (1 Cor. 13:5) The district convention is a time set aside to be taught by Jehovah, and children as well as adults can show respect for this arrangement by their conduct both at the convention site and elsewhere.—Isa. 54:13.

⁶ Our fine conduct can do much to counter misconceptions and attract people to true worship. (Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12) May all of those with whom we come in contact at our district convention receive a favorable witness by the way we act and how we treat them. In this way we will 'show ourselves an example of fine works' and glorify Jehovah.—Titus 2:7.

1. Why do we need to be especially conscious of our conduct at the district convention?
2. What should we bear in mind in connection with rooming arrangements?
3. How can we "work what is good toward all" at the hotel?
4, 5. How can children bring praise to Jehovah, and what responsibility do parents have?
6. What effect can our fine conduct have on others?

Well-Arranged Dress Shows Reverence for God

1 Soon we will have the privilege of being Jehovah's guests at the 2003 "Give God Glory" District Convention. How thankful we are to Jehovah for inviting us to such a rich spiritual feast! We can demonstrate our reverence for him and our appreciation for his spiritual provisions by the way we dress and groom ourselves.—Ps. 116:12, 17.

2 **Clean and Orderly:** Our appearance should reflect the standards of our God, who is clean and orderly. (1 Cor. 14:33; 2 Cor. 7:1) Our person, hair, and nails should be clean, and we should be neatly groomed. Sloppy grooming is common today. However, just because a movie star or sports hero looks disheveled is no reason for a Christian to do so. If we follow fads, people may have difficulty seeing the distinction between those who are serving the true God and those who are not serving him.—Mal. 3:18.

Present a Dignified Appearance

- When traveling
- At the convention
- During leisure activities

3 **Dress That Befits Christian Ministers:** When the apostle Paul wrote to the Christian overseer Timothy, he encouraged "women to adorn themselves in well-arranged dress, with modesty and soundness of mind, . . . in the way that befits women professing to reverence God, namely, through good works." (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) To ensure that our attire is well-arranged requires careful thought. Clothing should be neat, clean, and modest—not gaudy, sensuous, or provocative.—1 Pet. 3:3.

4 Paul also cautioned against going overboard with "styles of hair braiding and gold or pearls or very expensive garb." (1 Tim. 2:9) Being balanced in the use of jewelry, makeup, and other adornments is a wise course for Christian women to follow.—Prov. 11:2.

5 The counsel Paul directed toward Christian women also applies in principle to Christian men. Brothers should avoid styles that reflect the thinking of the world. (1 John 2:16) For example, in some lands baggy, oversized clothing is popular, but this style does not present a fitting appearance for a minister of God.

6 **During Leisure Activities:** When attending the program, most brothers and sisters set an excellent example in the matter of dress and grooming. However, reports indicate that some become lax when traveling to and from the convention or when engaging in leisure activities after the sessions. Really, our personal appearance—whether during the program or at other times—influences how others view God's people. Since we wear our convention badge cards, we should always dress in a way that befits Christian ministers. This often moves others to compliment us and opens the way to give a witness.—1 Cor. 10:31-33.

7 Just as a kind smile enhances the appearance of our face, so well-arranged dress and grooming dignifies the message we bear and the organization we represent. Some who observe us during the "Give God Glory" District Conventions this year may be moved to inquire why we are different and may eventually say: "We will go with you people, for we have heard [and observed] that God is with you people." (Zech. 8:23) May each of us show our reverence for Jehovah by our dress and grooming.

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1. How can we express appreciation for our upcoming district convention?

2. Why is it important for us to be clean and neatly groomed?

3. How can we ensure that our appearance will be in harmony with the counsel found at 1 Timothy 2:9, 10?

4, 5. What cautions should Christian men and women heed?

6. Why should we maintain a high standard in our dress and grooming when traveling to and from the convention, while at the convention, and following the sessions each day?

7. What effect can our well-arranged dress and grooming have on others?

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 28, 2003. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of March 3 through April 28, 2003. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What factors may contribute to a lack of fluency? [*be* p. 93]

2. *True or False:* Pausing should be avoided, since it can allow people's minds to wander and give them opportunities to interrupt. Explain.

3. Of what value is proper sense stress to a speaker or a public reader? (Neh. 8:8) [*be* p. 101]

4. How can one develop proper sense stress? [*be* pp. 102-3]

5. What are the principal ideas that should be emphasized when reading aloud from a publication at a Bible study or at a congregation meeting? [*be* p.105]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What can parents do to train children "in order that they may listen and in order that they may learn" at Christian meetings? (Deut. 31:12) [*be* p. 16]

7. What is the spiritual paradise? [*w*01 3/1 pp. 8-10]

8. How does Proverbs 8:1-3 show that godly wisdom is available to all, and according to Colossians 2:3, where can it be found? [*w*01 3/15 pp. 25, 28]

9. How can we make God's name known? (John 17:6) [*be* pp. 273-5]

10. What important details do people need to know concerning the "good news of the kingdom"? (Matt. 24:14) [*be* pp. 279-80]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. (a) In the first century, what was "the disgusting thing" mentioned at Mark 13:14? (b) To what did its "standing where it ought not" refer?

12. How does Luke's Gospel establish that Jesus was the natural heir to David's throne? (Luke 3:23-38) [*w*92 10/1 p. 9 par. 3]

13. What was the point of Jesus' statement recorded at Luke 12:2?

14. In Jesus' illustration of the lost drachma coin, why is the reaction of the angels remarkable? (Luke 15:10) How should their example affect us?

15. Which two covenants are mentioned at Luke 22:29?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When making return visits on interested people, which may include those who attend the Memorial and/or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the new book *Worship the Only True God.* Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially if some individuals have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. **June, July, and August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock.

■ Those planning to tour the U.S. branch facilities may wish to arrange their visits on a weekday (Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.) rather than on Saturday morning. This will allow them to view Bethel departments in full operation. Those wishing to tour on Saturday morning are certainly welcome. However, they will receive only a limited tour, since many Bethel family members are sharing in the field ministry or other theocratic activities at that time.

■ DISTRICT CONVENTION CHANGE: Because of circumstances beyond our control, the dates for the district convention in Uniondale, New York, on September 5-7, 2003, have been changed to July 25-27, 2003.

■ DISTRICT CONVENTION CORRECTION: The address appearing on page 30 of the March 1, 2003, *Watchtower* for the district conventions to be held in Columbia, South Carolina, is incorrect. The correct address is as follows: The Carolina Center, 801 Lincoln Street.

■ Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 2003 will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these unless you have a foreign-language group associated with your congregation. Based on the size of each congregation, cards will be shipped in lots of 25. If additional badge cards are needed by the congregation, these should be requested on a Literature Request Form (S-14). Plastic badge holders must be requested for any in the congregation who desire them.

■ DISTRICT CONVENTION PARKING: At all convention sites where we have secured control of the parking facilities, the spaces will be made available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. No parking tickets will be used, but convention badge cards will serve as identification for parking. Only those who have a state-approved disabled license plate or placard will be allowed to park in the parking reserved for the disabled. Being aware that considerable expense is involved, we can show our appreciation by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at our Kingdom Hall or at the convention. Any checks contributed at the convention should be made payable to "Watch Tower." Since parking space is usually limited, carpooling should be done to the extent possible rather than having only one or two persons per car. At a few locations, this parking arrangement cannot be fully implemented this year. Congregations affected by any variation in this arrangement will be so advised by their local convention headquarters.

■ Whenever personal travel plans include attending congregation meetings, an assembly, or a district convention in another land, your request for information regarding dates, times, and locations must be directed to the branch office that oversees the work in that land. Addresses of branch offices are listed on the last page of the current *Yearbook.*

QUESTION BOX

■ What cautions should we heed when witnessing to prison inmates?

Worldwide there are at least eight million prison inmates, some of whom show an interest in the good news. (1 Tim. 2:4) One branch office receives some 1,400 letters each month from inmates and their family members requesting literature or a personal visit. While the interest of many inmates is sincere, experience has shown that some feign interest, seeking to take selfish advantage of God's people. In view of this, *all* should heed the following cautions regarding witnessing to prison inmates.

In many cases inmates are given a witness by means of correspondence. It is strongly recommended that *sisters not write to male prisoners,* even if it is with the goal of giving spiritual help. That responsibility should be handled only by qualified brothers. Qualified sisters may be assigned to correspond with female inmates who express sincere interest in Bible truth. *Money or personal gifts should not be sent to inmates,* despite the fact that such may be requested.

When an incarcerated person shows interest, his name and address should be turned over to the congregation in the area of the prison facility. Usually the qualified brothers there know how to handle the various situations that can arise. If the congregation is not known, the information should be sent to the branch office.

It is not objectionable for the assigned brothers to hold meetings with prisoners so that several may study at one time. *However, special events in which publishers mingle freely with inmates should not be held in prisons.* Furthermore, it is ill-advised for publishers to visit a prison indiscriminately and have close association with prisoners.

May we be "cautious as serpents and yet innocent as doves" as we share the good news with prison inmates. —Matt. 10:16.

Return Visits Lead to Bible Studies

1 Jesus commissioned his followers not only to preach but also to "make disciples . . . , teaching them." (Matt. 28:19, 20) A preacher proclaims, but a teacher does more. He instructs, explains, and offers proof. One way we teach others is by making return visits on interested ones with a view to starting Bible studies with them.

2 On whom should you make return visits? Be sure to call back on all who accept literature or who show even a spark of interest in the good news. If you find interest when witnessing in a public setting, seek to obtain the person's address or telephone number so that the interest can be cultivated. Be optimistic about starting Bible studies. Continue to search for those who will accept an offer to study the Bible, and you will likely find them.—Matt. 10:11.

3 **Show Personal Interest:** Preparation for an effective return visit begins on the initial call. Successful evangelizers take note of what interests the householder, and they use that as a basis for further discussions. Some find it advantageous to raise a question at the conclusion of the call in order to prime the householder for the next visit. Our sincere interest in people keeps us thinking about them even after we have left the door, and it prompts us to call again without delay. If possible, try to return while the interest is still fresh—perhaps even within a day or two.

4 When making a return visit, seek to build on your previous discussion. Make it your aim to share at least one upbuilding Scriptural point each time, and be willing to listen. Get to know the householder better. Then on subsequent visits, share the truths from God's Word that most directly address his concerns.

5 **Be Bible-Study Conscious:** Make return visits with the objective of starting a Bible study. How can this be done? Mention that you would like to share an interesting point, and open to a paragraph in the *Knowledge* book or *Require* brochure that you think will appeal to the person. Read the paragraph, consider the question, and discuss one or two of the cited scriptures. This can be done right at the doorstep in five to ten minutes. Conclude by raising the next question and making arrangements to continue the discussion at another time.

6 Cultivating all interest we find is a vital aspect of our ministry. Therefore, set aside time in your weekly schedule for making return visits. Doing so will add to the effectiveness of your ministry and bring real joy.

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1. Why is the return visit work so important?
2. On whom should we call back?
3, 4. What is involved in making effective return visits?
5. What simple approach could be used for starting Bible studies?
6. How can we show that we appreciate the importance of making return visits?

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Apr. 15

"In recent years many people have observed a decline in spiritual values. Have you noticed this? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 119:105.] Spiritual values can help people avoid many pitfalls in life. This magazine points to where true spiritual values can be found."

Awake! Apr. 22

"In today's fast-paced world, many wonder if children are growing up too fast. Does this concern you? [Allow for response. Then read Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 4.] Childhood should not be a time for bearing adult burdens. This issue of *Awake!* discusses how parents can safeguard their children's childhood."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM May 1

"Some questions are beyond human ability to answer. Notice this example. [Read Job 21:7.] Have you ever had a question you wanted to ask God? [Allow for response.] This magazine explains how people in all parts of the earth have found satisfying answers to three of life's most serious questions."

Awake! May 8

"Most of us know someone who has diabetes. Do you know much about this disease? [Show cover of magazine, and allow for response.] This magazine explores the causes and treatment of diabetes. It also discusses the Bible's promise of a permanent cure for all diseases." Conclude by reading Isaiah 33:24.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 5/03 Vol. 46, No. 5

Entrusted With the Good News

1 How privileged we are to be entrusted with the good news of God! (1 Thess. 2:4) While some may refuse this powerful message, honesthearted ones are drawn to it as to a lovely fragrance. (2 Cor. 2:14-16) For those who accept and obey the good news, it means salvation. (Rom. 1:16) How should we care for this trust?

2 **Jesus and the Apostles:** Jesus put proclaiming the good news in first place. (Luke 4:18, 43) Even when he was tired and hungry, his love for people and his appreciation for the message moved him to share it with others. (Mark 6:30-34) By word and example, he impressed upon the minds of his disciples the importance of the Kingdom-preaching work.—Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 13:10.

3 In imitation of Jesus, the apostles zealously declared the Kingdom message. Even when beaten and ordered to stop preaching, “they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news.” (Acts 5:40-42) The apostle Paul worked tirelessly in this work. (1 Cor. 15:9, 10; Col. 1:29) He likened the privilege of sharing the good news to a debt owed to his fellowmen, and he was willing to forgo personal convenience in order to discharge it.—Acts 20:24; Rom. 1:14-16.

4 **Our Privilege Today:** Appreciation for the sacred commission entrusted to us will move us to seek ways to expand our share in the preaching work. (Rom. 15:16) Edward, who was confined to a wheelchair, would sit at the entrance of a hotel and talk to guests about his faith. Desiring to do more, however, he had a special cab built on a pickup truck, and by means of this vehicle, he pioneered for many years, traveling thousands of miles in the process. Like Edward, many today have adjusted their circumstances to have a greater share in spreading the good news.

5 In imitation of Jesus and the apostles, may we today always give the preaching work priority in our lives. By so doing, we demonstrate our love for people as well as our appreciation of the good news entrusted to us.

Praise Jehovah by Witnessing Informally

1 Jehovah's loyal servants seek opportunities to praise him each day. (Ps. 96:2, 3; Heb. 13:15) One way we can do that is by witnessing informally. Many worshipers of Jehovah today are thankful that someone introduced them to the Kingdom message through informal witnessing.

2 Giving an informal witness to one person often opens the way for others to hear the Kingdom message. For example, Jesus' conversation with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's fountain led to many more taking an *interest in the* good news. (John 4:6-30, 39-42) While Paul and Silas were imprisoned in Philippi, they witnessed to the jailer, and the man's entire household accepted the truth.—Acts 16:25-34.

3 **Opportunities:** What opportunities do you have to witness informally? Some do so when shopping, taking public transportation, or waiting at medical appointments. Others are able to witness during breaks at work or school. Simply having one of our Bible publications visible may prompt others to inquire about our beliefs.—1 Pet. 3:15.

4 **Getting Started:** A shy seven-year-old girl heard at a meeting how important it is for all to preach. So when going shopping with her mother, she put two brochures in her bag. While her mother was busy at the counter, the girl offered a brochure to a lady, who graciously accepted it. When asked how she got the courage to approach the lady, this shy girl replied: “I just said, Ready, Set, Go! And I went!”

5 To witness informally, we all need a spirit like that little girl's. What can help us? Pray for the courage to speak up. (1 Thess. 2:2) Have in mind a question or comment on a topic of interest that you can use to initiate a conversation. Then trust that Jehovah will bless your efforts.—Luke 12:11, 12.

6 Witnessing informally to the people we meet each day brings praise to Jehovah and gives us joy. It may help someone get on the road to everlasting life.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting May 12

Song 1

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the May 15 *Watchtower* and the May 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. Include mention of the donation arrangement.

20 min: Parents—Help Your Children to Progress. A talk discussing highlights from the *Ministry School* book, pages 9-12 and 21-38. Encourage parents to use some of this material in their family study, with the goal of training their children to progress in the ministry. Call attention to specific points that can be used to help young ones develop needed skills.

15 min: "Entrusted With the Good News."* Arrange in advance for one or two publishers to explain briefly how they were able to adjust their personal circumstances so as to increase their share in the preaching work.

Song 46 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 19

Song 62

15 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Discuss "International Kingdom Hall Building in Some European Lands." Mention that construction of Kingdom Halls both in lands with limited resources and in the local branch territory is supported by contributions to the Kingdom Hall Fund.

15 min: Local needs.

15 min: "Praise Jehovah by Witnessing Informally." Talk and audience discussion. When discussing paragraph 3, ask the audience what could be said to initiate a Bible discussion in some of the following situations: (1) while standing in a checkout line, (2) while using public transportation, (3) to a neighbor working in the yard, (4) to a workmate at your place of employment, and (5) to a classmate at school. Arrange in advance for a local experience that shows how the publisher successfully gave an informal witness.

Song 135 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 26

Song 174

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in service reports for May. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the June 1 *Watchtower* and the June 8 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. At the conclusion of one of the presentations, leave the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* with a householder who did not accept the magazines.

10 min: Question Box. A talk. Briefly review some suggestions for telephone presentations that appeared in the February 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 6, paragraphs 12-15, or others that have been effective in the local territory.

25 min: "God's Word Is Truth."* Use questions that are provided. Invite audience to comment on how they were helped to learn the truth when publishers used the Bible to answer their questions. When discussing paragraph 4, have a capable publisher demonstrate how to use the Bible on the initial call, using some of the suggestions appearing in the article "Handle God's Word Aright."—*km* 12/01 p. 1 pars. 3-4.

Song 188 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 2

Song 210

10 min: Local announcements. Review one or two suggestions from the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert for presenting the *Require* brochure and *Knowledge* book.

20 min: Honorable Marriage—A Divine Requirement. Talk and audience discussion. In many lands, it is common for couples to live together without being legally married. Some claim that this has practical advantages. Highlight the Bible's view, emphasizing that marriage is of divine origin. (*rs* pp. 248-9) Living together without the benefit of marriage is fornication. (*fy* p. 17) Contrary to what many believe, studies show that living together before marriage reduces the likelihood that the marriage will succeed. (*g*02 3/8 p. 29; *g*92 9/8 p. 28; *g*91 5/8 p. 28) Christians honor Jehovah by conforming to his standards. In doing so, they also benefit themselves.—Isa. 48:17, 18.

15 min: How Are You Benefiting? Audience discussion to be handled by the school overseer. Starting in January, we were introduced to a new format for the Theocratic Ministry School. Briefly review some of the new features of the school. Highlight the positive results seen so far. Have more enrolled in the school? Has there been a greater willingness to participate? How are the students benefiting from the new arrangements for providing counsel? Invite audience to relate how they have personally benefited so far and how they feel the new program will help them in the future.

Song 225 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	177	104.8	83.3	49.0	4.7
Pios.	89,251	59.7	38.0	19.9	1.9
Aux. Pios.	15,543	47.6	32.7	13.7	1.2
Pubs.	878,992	8.5	7.3	3.4	0.3
TOTAL	983,963		Baptized: 1,505		

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International Kingdom Hall Building
in Some European Lands

Kingdom Hall Complex
Moscow, Russia

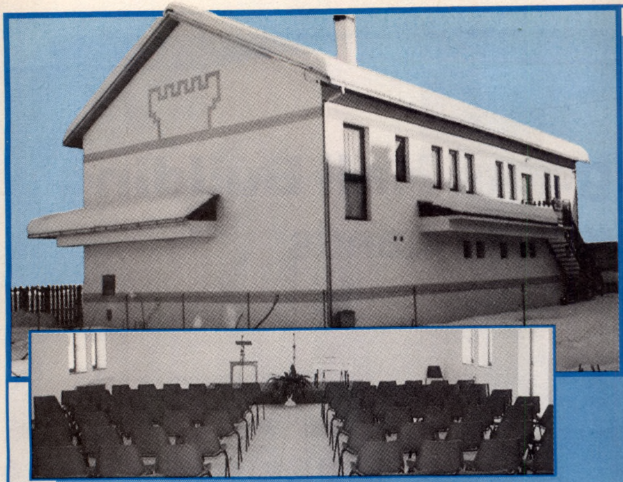
1 In recent decades the work of Jehovah's Witnesses in a number of European lands, including Eastern Europe, was restricted. In most cases, the restrictions were quite severe. It was difficult to hold meetings openly, and having the use of a Kingdom Hall was nearly impossible. In recent years, however, "Jehovah has done a great thing in what he has done with us. We have become joyful." —Ps. 126:3.

2 Beginning in 1983, the oppressive grip on Jehovah's Witnesses began to loosen. By 1989, Poland and Hungary had granted Jehovah's Witnesses legal recognition. In 1991, Jehovah's Witnesses were granted legal registration in Russia. Since then, the work has prospered in Russia and in the former republics of the Soviet Union. Between March 1996 and October 1998, the Governing Body gave approval to 359 Kingdom Hall loan requests from branch offices overseeing 11 European lands.

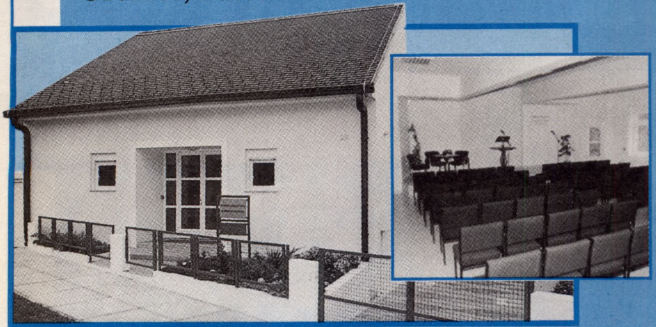
3 As you look over the pictures in this insert, reflect on the great and wonderful things that Jehovah has done in behalf of his people. (Ps. 136:4) Take pleasure in knowing that contributions of the worldwide brotherhood are being put to excellent use, reflecting what Jesus stated, as recorded at John 13:35: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves."

4 Among the European countries benefiting from an arrangement to help build Kingdom Halls in lands with limited resources

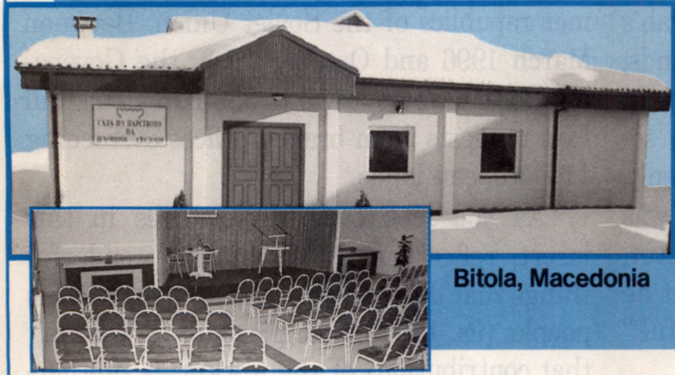
New Kingdom Halls in



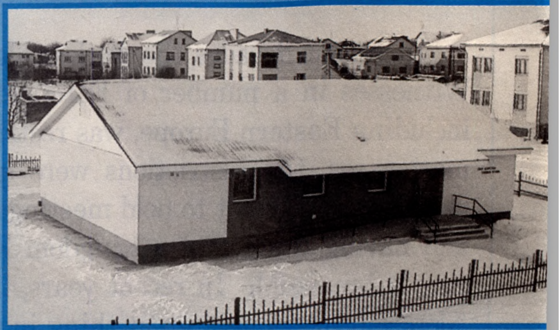
Strumica, Macedonia



Daruvar, Croatia



Bitola, Macedonia

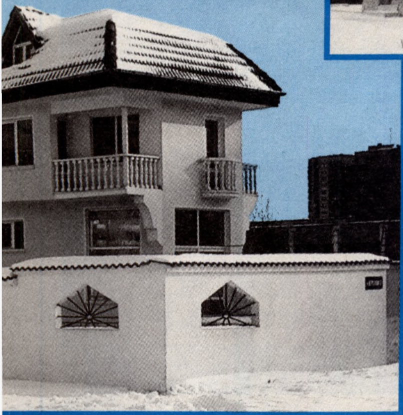


Sokal, Lviv District, Ukraine

is Romania, where 36 Kingdom Halls have been built since July 2000. By using a standard pattern for almost all their Kingdom Halls, Ukraine built 61 in the year 2001 and 76 more in 2002. With the aid of moneys contributed to the Kingdom Hall Fund, hundreds of Kingdom Halls have been built in Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

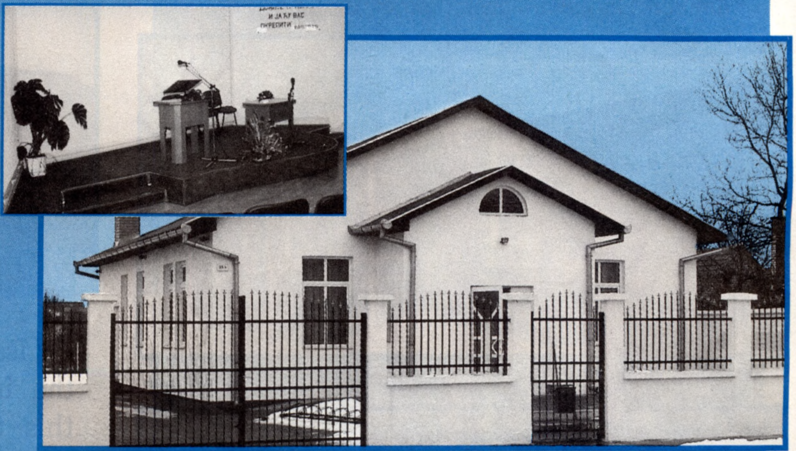
[5] Building Kingdom Halls in some lands has not been easy, and much effort must be put forth before actual construction can begin. Often the process is time-consuming. Then, too, the cost of building a Kingdom

Sofia, Bulgaria

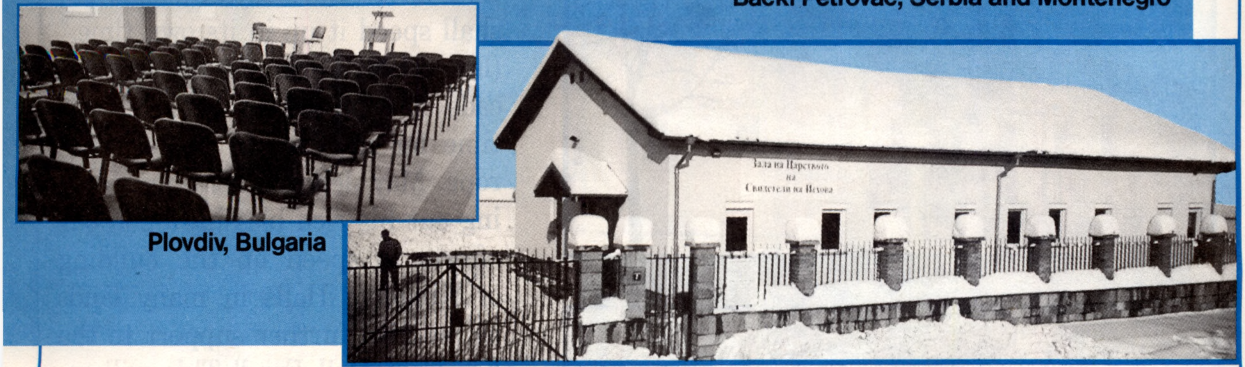


Krasnooktyabrskiy, Maykop Area, Russia

Eastern Europe



Bački Petrovac, Serbia and Montenegro



Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Hall in that part of Europe is much greater than in many parts of Africa or South America. However, because of the large increase in the number of those who worship Jehovah, hundreds of Kingdom Halls are still needed in European countries with limited resources!

6 How marvelous it is to see such rapid increase in the building of these Kingdom Halls! An excellent witness has been given in neighborhoods where they have been built, as many experiences show. In some areas, local authorities are impressed by the willing spirit shown in following building guidelines.

ЗАЛ ЦАРСТВА СВІДКІВ ЄГОВИ

Tlumach, Ivano-Frankivsk District, Ukraine

ЗАЛ ЦАРСТВА
СВІДКІВ ЄГОВИ

Rava-Ruska, Lviv District, Ukraine

Stara Pazova, Serbia and Montenegro

Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sokal, Lviv District, Ukraine

Zhydachiv, Lviv District, Ukraine

7 Isaiah aptly prophesied about the increase in true worship at this time. Through the prophet God foretold: "I myself, Jehovah, shall speed it up in its own time." (Isa. 60:22) Certainly, the last decade has proved to be Jehovah's time for increase in Eastern Europe. May Jehovah continue pouring out his rich blessing upon our efforts to speed up the building of Kingdom Halls in many lands as we give further support to the Kingdom Hall Fund! This will result in many more Kingdom Halls being added in lands with limited resources. It will contribute to the growth of pure worship in many parts of Europe and to a greater witness being given to "the extremity of the earth."—Acts 13:47.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **May:** Offer individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When making return visits on interested people, which may include those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially with individuals who have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. **June, July, and August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ Donations made by check and put in the local Kingdom Hall contribution boxes for the worldwide work and the Kingdom Hall Fund should be made payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations made by check at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Office of the Secretary and Treasurer, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

■ Beginning with the May literature shipment, the annual supply of congregation forms is being shipped to congregations as forms become available. Instructions regarding forms distribution will appear on the shipment packing list. When there is more than one congregation in a Kingdom Hall auditorium, the literature coordinator should make sure that each congregation receives its supply of forms as soon as they arrive.

■ Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the forms Application for Regular Pioneer Service (S-205) and Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service (S-205b). These can be ordered on the Literature Request Form (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply. Review all regular pioneer application forms to make sure they are complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it.

■ It is necessary for the branch office to maintain an up-to-date record of addresses and telephone numbers for all presiding overseers and secretaries. If there is a change at any time, the Congregation Service Committee should complete, sign, and send a Presiding Overseer/Secretary Change of Address (S-29) form to the branch office promptly. This includes any changes in telephone area codes.

QUESTION BOX

■ **When witnessing by telephone, should we explain the donation arrangement?**

When we give a witness in person, it may be possible to explain that the worldwide Bible educational work of Jehovah's Witnesses is supported entirely by voluntary donations and that we are happy to accept such donations. However, no mention of donations or the donation arrangement should be made when witnessing by telephone, as this could be misinterpreted as a form of telephone solicitation. The ministry of Jehovah's Witnesses is noncommercial in every way.—2 Cor. 2:17.

◆

■ **When witnessing by telephone, what should we do if a person requests that Jehovah's Witnesses not call again?**

The wishes of the person should be respected. A *dated* note with the name of the person should be placed in the territory envelope so that publishers will avoid calling that number in the future. Once a year, the list of people who have requested that we not call should be reviewed. Under the direction of the service overseer, experienced, tactful publishers can be assigned to contact these people to determine their current feelings.—See the June 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

God's Word Is Truth

[1] "The substance of your word is truth," wrote the psalmist. (Ps. 119:160) Through his inspired Word, Jehovah gives satisfying answers to life's most important questions. He offers comfort and hope to those who are troubled. And he shows us how we can draw close to him. "Learning the truth from the Bible is like leaving a very dark and gloomy place and entering a clear, bright, and pleasant room," said one appreciative woman. Do you endeavor to share the truth from God's Word at every opportunity?

[2] **Transforming Power and Universal Appeal:** Bible truth has the power to touch hearts and transform lives. (Heb. 4:12) A young woman named Rosa had become involved in prostitution, as well as alcohol and drug abuse. "One day, when I was at the very depths of despair," she says, "a Witness couple spoke to me about how the Bible can help us solve our problems. I began to study God's Word, which I found fascinating. Within a month I had the strength to make a clean, fresh start in life. Now that I had a purpose in life, I no longer needed the crutch of alcohol or drugs. And since I wanted so much to be Jehovah's friend, I was determined to live by his standards. If it hadn't been for the practical wisdom of God's Word, I am sure that by now I would have put an end to my life."—Ps. 119:92.

[3] Unlike most books today, the Bible appeals to people of 'all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues.' (Rev. 7:9) God's will is "that all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) Therefore, we should never presume that a person will be unreceptive to the good news simply because of his background. Rather, share the Kingdom message with all, doing so directly from the Bible whenever possible.

[4] **Feature the Scriptures:** There are many opportunities to use the Bible in the ministry. When presenting the magazines, try to include the scripture that appears in the suggested presentation. When using the literature offer for the month, some find it effective to include the reading of a carefully selected scripture in their opening remarks. When making return visits, share one or more Bible texts each time to help the householder progressively acquire accurate knowledge. When conducting a Bible study, center the discussion on the key scriptures. When not sharing in the formal ministry, have a Bible handy to use when opportunities arise to witness informally. —2 Tim. 2:15.

[5] May we help others benefit from the motivating power of God's Word of truth by using the Bible at every appropriate opportunity in our ministry. —1 Thess. 2:13.

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1. What important information does the Bible contain?
2. How does the Bible improve people's lives?
3. Why should we not hold back from sharing the Bible's message with others?
4. How can we use the Bible when giving a witness?
5. Why should we strive to use the Bible in our ministry?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM May 15

"Daily we hear reports of violence. Do you think such conditions ever existed before? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says. [Read Matthew 24:37.] Noah's days were so bad that God swept away all but Noah and his family. This magazine shows how those events have meaning for us today."

Awake! May 22

"Today, insect-borne disease is one of many dangers to our health. Did you know that there are measures we can take to protect ourselves? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses these measures, as well as the Bible's promise of a time when there will be no more sickness." Conclude by reading Isaiah 33:24.

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 1

"Reports of mismanagement of donated funds have caused some to wonder if it is wise to give to charity. Yet, there are so many people in need. What do you think can be done? [Allow for response. Then read Hebrews 13:16.] This magazine explains the kind of giving that pleases God."

Awake! June 8

"It appears that people today do not value morals and good manners as they did in years past. Have you observed that to be true? [Allow for response.] Interestingly, the Bible made this prediction. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses why human values are changing and what the future holds."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

June 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 6/03 Vol. 46, No. 6

Preaching in an Ever-Changing World

[1] How quickly things can change! Overnight, a natural disaster, an economic crisis, a political upheaval, or a highly publicized tragedy can become the topic of conversation. Just as quickly, however, people may turn their attention elsewhere. (Acts 17:21; 1 Cor. 7:31) In this ever-changing world, how can we capture people's attention so as to share the Kingdom message with them?

[2] **Discern Others' Concerns:** One way of capturing people's attention is by referring to current events. In urging his listeners to think seriously about their standing with God, on one occasion Jesus mentioned recent tragedies that were on their minds. (Luke 13:1-5) In like manner, when presenting the good news, we do well to tie in a current news item or local issue that touches the lives of those in our territory. However, when discussing such matters, we must use caution not to take sides on political or social issues.—John 17:16.

[3] How can we tell what people are *currently* thinking about? Perhaps the best way is simply to ask a question and then listen. (Matt. 12:34) Interest in people will move us to note the viewpoint of others and tactfully inquire further. An offhand remark by a householder may reveal a concern held by many in the area and could open the way to give a witness.

[4] **Preparing a Presentation:** In preparing for field service in an ever-changing world, we can make use of the *Reasoning* book. Helpful suggestions on how to incorporate current events into our presentation are set out on pages 10-11, under "Crime/Safety" and "Current Events." Similar information can be found in the September 2000 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4. When preparing your presentation, be sure to include an appropriate scripture.

[5] As we take note of the ever-changing concerns of those in our territory, we need to adapt our presentation of the good news accordingly. In that way, we talk to people about what is close to their hearts. Thereby, we help many more come to know the One who is unchanging in his qualities and standards.—Jas. 1:17.

The Christian Ministry —Our Main Work

[1] All of us have various kinds of work we must do. Providing for one's household is a divine requirement. (1 Tim. 5:8) However, the work involved in that divine requirement should not overshadow the work of Kingdom preaching and disciple making.—Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.

[2] Jesus provided a model for us to follow in "seeking first the kingdom." (Matt. 6: 33; 1 Pet. 2:21) Though having little materially, he was fully absorbed in doing his Father's will. (Luke 4:43; 9:58; John 4: 34) He exerted himself in giving a witness at every opportunity. (Luke 23:43; 1 Tim. 6: 13) He urged his disciples to have that same intense interest in the harvest work.—Matt. 9: 37, 38.

[3] **Imitating Jesus Today:** We can imitate Jesus' example by striving to live a simple life that centers on the Christian ministry. If we have the necessities of life, let us heed the Bible's counsel not to go on acquiring more and more of this world's goods. (Matt. 6:19, 20; 1 Tim. 6:8) How much better to seek to expand our share in the preaching work! If we face challenging circumstances, may we exert ourselves as Jesus did, not allowing the cares of life to overshadow our main work of declaring the good news of the Kingdom. —Luke 8:14; 9:59-62.

[4] Even those with many responsibilities give priority to the preaching work. A brother who has a large family, holds a responsible job, and serves as an elder in the Christian congregation says: "I view the ministry as my career." A pioneer sister says: "Pioneering is worth far more than a successful secular career."

[5] Regardless of our circumstances, may we follow Jesus' example. How? By making the Christian ministry our main work.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting June 9

Song 81

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the June 15 *Watchtower* and the June 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. Include a scripture in each presentation.

15 min: "The Christian Ministry—Our Main Work."* Encourage youths to consider the blessings they can enjoy by entering full-time service. Include comments on the material under the subheading "When Culture and Conscience Clash," in the November 1, 2000, *Watchtower,* pages 19-20.

20 min: "Retirement—A Door to Increased Activity?"* If possible, include a brief interview of a publisher who has used retirement from secular work to do more in Jehovah's service. Ask what adjustments he has made and what blessings he has experienced as a result.

Song 190 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 16

Song 55

8 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

12 min: Local needs.

25 min: "Be Diligent in 'Bearing Thorough Witness.'"* Use the questions that are provided. After discussing paragraphs 5 and 6, include a brief demonstration of witnessing informally to a store clerk and offering the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* Before discussing paragraphs 7 and 8, have them read aloud. In conclusion, read and discuss the box "Do Not Forget Them!"

Song 131 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 23

Song 95

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the July 1 *Watchtower* and the July 8 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In one of the demonstrations, show the publisher engaging in street witnessing.

20 min: What Can Be Done About Discouragement? A talk and audience discussion based on the November 15, 1999, *Watchtower,* pages 28-9, up to and including the subheading "Maintaining a Good Attitude." Review practical suggestions along with Scriptural counsel. Arrange in advance for one or two effective publishers to explain what helps them to maintain joy in their ministry.

15 min: "Preaching in an Ever-Changing World."* When discussing paragraphs 2-3, ask audience what current events could be used to start conversations in the local territory. When discussing paragraph 4, have a brief demonstration, using one of the presentations noted.

Song 15 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 30

Song 3

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for June. Mention literature offer for July and August. Review two or three of the suggestions on page 6 of the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert for starting Bible studies in the *Knowledge* book or *Require* brochure using the direct approach. Have a well-prepared demonstration of one of them.

15 min: "Disabled—Yet Fruitful."* Include comments on how others can assist, based on the August 22, 1990, *Awake!,* pages 22-3, under the subheading "What Can Be Done?"

20 min: Use God's Word Effectively to Preach the Kingdom. Audience discussion to be handled by the service overseer. With each person we meet in our ministry, we strive to share an upbuilding Scriptural thought about the Kingdom. However, we need to do more than just *read* Bible texts. We need to *explain, illustrate, and apply* them. Show how this can be done, using as examples some of the scriptures cited in the *Reasoning* book, pages 154-5, under the italicized subheading "Human rulers are not providing what mankind urgently needs." Following the discussion, have a well-prepared publisher demonstrate how to use one scripture effectively on a return visit, giving a concise explanation, a simple illustration, and a brief application that shows the householder how Kingdom rule will benefit him personally. Begin the demonstration with the publisher reading the scripture. Following the demonstration, review how the text was explained, illustrated, and applied. Encourage all to develop the ability to use God's Word effectively.

Song 171 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 7

Song 165

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local experiences. Relate or reenact experiences that local publishers have had when (1) witnessing to various ethnic groups or people speaking other languages or (2) witnessing in settings other than house-to-house and street work. Encourage all to make good use of the booklet *Good News for All Nations* and the Please Follow Up (S-43) form when they meet those who speak another language.—See the September 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 2, Announcements.

25 min: "Making Known the Divine Name."* Use the questions that are provided. When considering paragraph 4, include comments on the box "Making Known the Name of God," found on page 124 of the *Proclaimers* book. Have a capable publisher demonstrate a return visit. Using two or three scriptures from the *Reasoning* book, pages 196-7, show why it is important to know and use God's personal name.

Song 197 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**207**	**107.6**	**92.4**	**48.9**	**4.6**
Pios.	**87,878**	**69.9**	**47.3**	**22.9**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**103,332**	**49.1**	**37.0**	**12.1**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**812,014**	**9.9**	**8.7**	**3.6**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,003,431**		Baptized:	**1,601**	

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Be Diligent in "Bearing Thorough Witness"

1 Like Jesus and many other faithful servants of old, the apostle Paul was a zealous preacher of the good news, "bearing thorough witness" regardless of the setting. Even while under house arrest, he "would kindly receive all those who came in to him, preaching the kingdom of God to them and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with the greatest freeness of speech."—Acts 28:16-31.

2 We too can be diligent in "bearing thorough witness" at all times. That includes witnessing to people we meet in our travels to and from the "Give God Glory" District Convention and while in the host city.—Acts 28:23; Ps. 145:10-13.

Publications Needed for Informal Witnessing

- *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* (tract)
- *What Does God Require of Us?* (brochure)
- *Good News for All Nations* (booklet)
- Other basic publications

3 **Incidental or Informal Witnessing?** Is there a difference? Yes. Something that is *incidental* occurs merely by chance or without intention, as if it was not planned or is of little importance. That certainly does not describe our ministry. As was true of Paul, giving God glory by our witnessing is important to us, and it should be our intention to give a witness wherever appropriate in the course of our travels this summer. However, the manner in which we approach others can rightly be described as *informal*—that is, relaxed, friendly, and unofficial. This approach can produce good results.

4 **Prepare to Give a Witness:** Paul had to make opportunities to witness while under house arrest in Rome. From his place of lodging, he took the initiative to invite the local Jewish leaders to his house. (Acts 28:17) Even though there was a Christian congregation in Rome, Paul learned that the Jewish community in that city had little firsthand information about the Christian faith. (Acts 28:22; Rom. 1:7) He did not hold back from "bearing thorough witness" about Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

5 Think of all the people you may contact in your travels who have only a passing knowledge of Jehovah's Witnesses. They may not even know that we offer free home Bible studies. Be alert to opportunities to witness to those you meet while traveling, making rest stops, refueling, shopping, staying in hotels, eating in restaurants, using public transportation, and so on. Determine in advance what you might say to initiate a conversation and to give a brief witness. Perhaps in the days ahead you can practice by witnessing informally to your neighbors, relatives, workmates, and other acquaintances.

6 You will need a supply of publications to use when witnessing informally. Which ones? You might use the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* Point to the first five paragraphs, where various reasons are given for reading the Bible. Show the coupon on the back for requesting a free home Bible study. When you find a responsive person, offer the *Require* brochure. In anticipation of meeting people who speak another language, take along the booklet *Good News for All Nations.* Page 2 explains how to use it to give a witness. If traveling by car, you may be able to take along a few other basic publications for those who show real interest in the Kingdom message.

1, 2. What impresses you about Paul's view of preaching the good news, and how can we imitate his example of "bearing thorough witness"?

3. How can we avoid having our informal witnessing turn into only an incidental effort?

4. What enabled Paul to witness at his place of lodging?

5, 6. What opportunities may we have for witnessing informally, and what preparations can we make in order to do so effectively?

[7] **Consider Your Appearance and Conduct:** We must make sure that our conduct as well as our dress and grooming will not give others a wrong impression or cause them to 'speak against' Jehovah's organization. (Acts 28:22) This applies not only while attending the convention but also while traveling and during leisure time. The August 1, 2002, *Watchtower,* page 18, paragraph 14, cautioned: "Our appearance should not be showy, bizarre, provocative, revealing, or faddish. In addition, we should dress in a manner that reflects 'reverence for God.' That gives food for thought, does it not? It is not simply a matter of dressing appropriately when attending congregation meetings [or convention sessions] and then throwing all caution to the wind at other times. Our personal appearance should always reflect a reverent, honorable attitude because we are Christians and ministers 24 hours a day." —1 Tim. 2:9, 10.

[8] We should dress modestly and with dignity. If our appearance and conduct always reflect our belief in God, we will never feel obligated to hold back from witnessing informally because our personal appearance leaves something to be desired.—1 Pet. 3:15.

[9] **Informal Witnessing Is Fruitful:** During the two years that Paul was under house arrest in Rome, he saw good results from his witnessing efforts. Luke reported that "some began to believe the things said." (Acts 28:24) Paul himself evaluated the effectiveness of his "bearing thorough witness" when he wrote: "My affairs have turned out for the advancement of the good news rather than otherwise, so that my bonds have become public knowledge in association with Christ among all the Praetorian Guard and all the rest; and most of the brothers in the Lord, feeling confidence by reason of my prison bonds, are showing all the more courage to speak the word of God fearlessly."—Phil. 1:12-14.

Do Not Forget Them!

Forget whom? All the interested ones who attended the Memorial of Christ's death or the special talk. Have we invited them to attend this year's district convention? Likely many of them, if given kindly encouragement, would attend. As they enjoy the upbuilding association at the convention and the encouraging spiritual program, they will be drawn closer to Jehovah and to his organization. Why not extend an invitation and see what happens? Give them all the details they need, including the dates of the convention, directions to the convention site, the times for the sessions to begin and end, and the preview of the program that is outlined on the back cover of the June 8, 2003, issue of *Awake!*

[10] Last summer, after spending the day at the district convention, a couple had a fruitful experience witnessing informally to a waitress who asked them about their convention badge cards. They told her about the convention and also about the hope the Bible holds out for the future of mankind. They gave her the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* and explained the free home Bible study arrangement. The woman said that she wanted someone to visit her, filled in her name and address on the back of the tract, and asked the couple to make the arrangements. What success might you enjoy this year by being diligent in "bearing thorough witness"?

[11] **Thoroughly Advance the Good News:** Imagine how happy Paul was when he heard that fellow Christians were imitating his zealous example! May we do all we can to advance the good news by witnessing informally about our Bible-based beliefs as we also benefit from this summer's district convention.

7, 8. What caution about our personal appearance and conduct while traveling and during leisure time should we heed?

9. What success in witnessing did Paul have in Rome?

10. What success in witnessing did a couple have last summer?

11. What qualities should we muster in order to advance the good news this summer by "bearing thorough witness"?

Retirement—A Door to Increased Activity?

[1] Many hardworking people long for the time when retirement will free them from the toil and pressures of secular work. All too often, though, retirement results in apathy, boredom, and premature aging. The lack of purposeful activity can leave the mind preoccupied with worry over self. A Brazilian newspaper reported that retired public employees complained of problems ranging from 'dissatisfaction, irritability, insecurity, and loss of identity to depression and the feeling that their world was falling apart.'

[2] In contrast, many Christians view this new chapter in their life as a door to increased spiritual activity. One brother who began pioneering two weeks after reaching the age of 65 said: "I have never experienced a period in my life so richly filled with blessings as the past ten years of pioneering." A couple wrote: "Our real golden years began when we started pioneering." Yes, for many, retirement offers a golden opportunity to expand their ministry and reap rich blessings from Jehovah.

[3] **Keeping Busy and Productive:** Many who are now retired grew up without the conveniences that are common today and learned to work hard from an early age. Although they may no longer have the vigor of youth, they are still very productive workers. In one branch territory, 22 percent of the pioneers—some 20,000 brothers and sisters—are at least 60 years of age. These older ones make a major contribution to the preaching work. Their experience and godly qualities enrich the congregations with which they serve.—Jas. 3:17, 18.

[4] Keeping busy in the Christian ministry contributes to better health and an improved quality of life. An 84-year-old sister who started pioneering when she retired said: "Having many Bible studies with interested people has helped me to stay mentally active. I don't have a car, so I walk a lot. That keeps me healthy." An elderly pioneer couple commented: "The service keeps us fit mentally and physically. We are always together. We laugh a lot and enjoy life."

[5] **Serving Where There Is a Need:** Some retired Christians who have favorable financial circumstances have moved to serve where the need for Kingdom preachers is greater. Others have expanded their ministry to serve in a foreign-language field. Like the apostle Paul, these zealous publishers "do all things for the sake of the good news, that [they] may become a sharer of it with others."—1 Cor. 9:23.

[6] One couple started pioneering after raising their two sons. After several years of pioneering, they undertook the task of learning the Chinese language. Now well into their 70's, they recently had the joy of seeing the Chinese group that they have been working with become a congregation. What a blessing couples like these have proved to be!

[7] **No Retirement From the Ministry:** While most people eventually retire from their secular employment, there is no retirement for any Christian from God's service. All must continue faithful "to the end." (Matt. 24:13, 14) Of course, with advancing years, some are not able to do as much as they formerly did in Jehovah's service. But how encouraging it is to see them doing what they can in a wholehearted way! God's Word assures them that Jehovah will not forget their work and the love that they show for his name. —Luke 21:1-4; Heb. 6:10.

[8] If you are approaching retirement age, why not prayerfully consider how you can make full use of your changing circumstances? With divine help, you may find that retirement opens for you a door to increased activity that brings praise to Jehovah and many blessings.—Ps. 148:12, 13.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 30, 2003. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of May 5 through June 30, 2003. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. Why is modulation important when giving a talk, and how may this be achieved? [*be* p. 111 box; p. 112 box]
2. Even though a speaker believes what he is saying and loves Jehovah, why may he lack enthusiasm? [*be* p. 115 pars. 3-4; p. 116 par. 1]
3. What will help a speaker to express warmth and feeling in a talk, and why is this important? [*be* p. 119 pars. 1-4]
4. What determines appropriate enthusiasm, warmth, and other emotions conveyed in a talk? [*be* p. 120 pars. 2-5]
5. *True or False:* Gestures and facial expressions are of value only if your audience is looking at you. Explain. [*be* p. 121 par. 3]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What helped Josiah choose the right course in spite of a terrible childhood? (2 Chron. 34:1, 2) [*w*01 4/15 p. 27 pars. 1-6; p. 28 par. 4]
7. What is the meaning of Proverbs 9:7, 8a, and how can this be applied to the field ministry? [*w*01 5/15 p. 29 pars. 4-5]
8. What did Jehovah mean when he told the Israelites, 'You must not forget,' and how can we avoid forgetting? (Deut. 4:9; 8:11) [*be* p. 20 pars. 1-3]
9. How do David's sincere expressions at Psalm 32:1, 5 and at Psalm 51:10, 15 show that a person need not feel worthless after committing a serious sin but expressing genuine repentance? [*w*01 6/1 p. 30 pars. 1-3]
10. What can be learned about caring for the needy from Paul's instructions set out at 1 Timothy 5:3-16? [*w*01 6/15 p. 11 par. 1]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. To what was Jesus referring when he used the expression "born again," as recorded at John 3:3? [*w*95 7/1 pp. 9-10 pars. 4-5]
12. In what way did Jesus use his education, and what valuable lesson can we learn from this? (John 7:15-18) [*w*96 2/1 pp. 9-10 pars. 4-7]
13. Why is John 7:53–8:11 not included in the main text of the *New World Translation?*
14. How did Jesus "come thus in the same manner" in which he ascended to heaven? (Acts 1:11) [*w*90 6/1 p. 11 par. 5]
15. Why was it that "not a one of the others had the courage to join himself to [the disciples]," as stated at Acts 5:13?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **June, July, and August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Before requesting additional supplies from the branch office, congregations should use what is available locally and check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand.

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following Saturdays: September 13, 2003 (Gilead graduation); October 4, 2003 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania); March 13, 2004 (Gilead graduation); and May 15, 2004 (spring cleaning). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

Please note that whereas the "Give God Glory" District Convention program begins on Friday at 9:30 a.m., the program for international conventions will begin on Thursday at 1:20 p.m.

Disabled—Yet Fruitful

1 If you are among the many Witnesses of Jehovah who have a disability, you can still have a fruitful ministry. In fact, your circumstances may provide special opportunities for you to give a witness and encourage others.

2 **Giving a Witness:** Many who must contend with a disability are having a full share in the ministry. For example, one sister whose mobility and speech were seriously affected by an operation found that she could share in magazine work if her husband parked their car near a busy sidewalk. On one occasion, she placed 80 magazines in just two hours! Your special circumstances may also bring you into contact with people who are otherwise hard to reach. If so, view them as your special territory.

3 Your preaching can be very effective! As others observe your determination and the good effect that Bible truth has had on your life, they may be attracted to the Kingdom message. Moreover, when you meet people who are suffering adversity, your experience in life may equip you to provide them with comfort from God's Word.—2 Cor. 1:4.

4 **Strengthen Others:** Were you not encouraged by the life story of Laurel Nisbet, who was confined to an iron lung for 37 years yet helped 17 individuals to come to an accurate knowledge of Bible truth? In like manner, your example can inspire fellow believers to exert themselves in Jehovah's service.—*g*93 1/22 pp. 18-21.

5 Even if your circumstances prevent you from getting out in the ministry as much as you would like, you can still strengthen others. One brother said: "I have learned that even a severely disabled person can be of great service to others. My wife and I have been a sort of anchor for various ones in the congregation. Because of our circumstances we are always here, always available." However, because of your disability, it is understood that you may not always be able to perform in accord with your zeal. Still, with some help you may be able to have an active share in the ministry. Therefore, if you require some assistance, do not hesitate to bring this to the attention of the elders or others in the congregation who can assist you.

6 Jehovah sees everything you do in order to serve him, and he takes delight in your whole-souled service. (Ps. 139:1-4) As you rely on him, he can empower you to have a fruitful and meaningful ministry.—2 Cor. 12:7-10.

Making Known the Divine Name

[1] How did you respond when you first learned God's name? The reaction of many is similar to that of a woman who said: "When I first saw God's name in the Bible, I wept. I was so moved by the knowledge that I could actually know and use the personal name of God." For her, learning the divine name was an important step in getting to know Jehovah as a person and being able to build a relationship with him.

[2] **Why Make It Known?** God's name is linked with his qualities, purposes, and acts. It is also linked with salvation. "Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved," wrote the apostle Paul. But "how will they call on him," Paul reasoned, unless people first learn about Jehovah and exercise faith in him? Hence, it is urgent for Christians to make known to others God's name and all that it represents. (Rom. 10:13, 14) However, there is an even greater reason why the divine name must be made known.

[3] In the 1920's, God's people discerned from the Scriptures the universal issue involving the vindication of God's sovereignty and the sanctification of his name. Before Jehovah destroys the wicked to remove the reproach that has been heaped upon his name, the truth about him must be "made known in all the earth." (Isa. 12:4, 5; Ezek. 38:23) Therefore, our foremost reason for preaching is to praise Jehovah publicly and to sanctify his name before all mankind. (Heb. 13:15) Love for God and neighbor will move us to share fully in this God-ordained work.

[4] **"A People for His Name":** In 1931 we adopted the name Jehovah's Witnesses. (Isa. 43:10) Since then, God's people have made known the divine name to such an extent that the *Proclaimers* book, page 124, notes: "Internationally, anyone who freely uses the name Jehovah is quickly identified as being one of Jehovah's Witnesses." Are you thus identified? Gratitude for Jehovah's goodness should move us to 'bless his name,' speaking about him on every appropriate occasion.—Ps. 20:7; 145:1, 2, 7.

[5] As "a people for his name," we must uphold his standards. (Acts 15:14; 2 Tim. 2:19) Often what people first notice about Jehovah's Witnesses is their fine conduct. (1 Pet. 2:12) Never would we want to profane his name by flouting godly principles or by relegating his worship to a secondary place in our lives. (Lev. 22:31, 32; Mal. 1:6-8, 12-14) Rather, may our way of life show that we cherish the privilege of bearing the divine name.

[6] Today, we see being fulfilled Jehovah's declaration: "From the sun's rising even to its setting my name will be great among the nations." (Mal. 1:11) Let us continue to make known the truth about Jehovah and "bless his holy name to time indefinite, even forever."—Ps. 145:21.

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1. What effect can learning God's personal name have on people?
2. Why is it urgent for us to teach others about Jehovah?
3. What is our foremost reason for preaching?
4. How have Jehovah's Witnesses come to be identified with God's name?
5. How is our conduct involved in bearing God's name?
6. What privilege can we enjoy both now and forever?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 15

"Some people feel that Jesus was the greatest *man* in history. Others question whether he even existed. Do you think it matters what we believe about him? [After response, read Acts 4:12.] What evidence is there that Jesus actually walked the earth? This magazine examines that question."

Awake! June 22

"Many people are concerned about the environment. Do you think it will be possible to preserve the world's tropical rain forests? [Allow for response.] This magazine describes current efforts to save the rain forests. It also discusses how this beautiful promise from God will be fulfilled." Read Isaiah 11:9.

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 1

"One of our most basic needs as humans is to love and be loved. [Read caption quote on page 4.] Yet, have you noticed that modern society tends to give priority to other things? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses what genuine love is and how it can be developed." Read 1 Corinthians 13:2.

Awake! July 8

"Many people find the increase in acts of senseless violence disturbing. [Cite an example known locally, and allow for response.] This magazine examines some of the factors contributing to violent crime. It also explains how God will eliminate crime and violence once and for all." Read Psalm 37:10, 11.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 7/03 Vol. 46, No. 7

Gratitude for God's Mercy

1 Before becoming a Christian, the apostle Paul was violently opposed to the spread of Christianity. However, because he acted in ignorance, he was shown mercy. Jehovah demonstrated undeserved kindness, and Paul was given an assignment to preach. He treasured that assignment. (Acts 26:9-18; 1 Tim. 1:12-14) Gratitude for Jehovah's mercy moved Paul to expend himself in fulfilling his ministry.—2 Cor. 12:15.

2 According to God's mercy, we too have been given a ministry. (2 Cor. 4:1) Like Paul, we can demonstrate our appreciation for the mercy shown us by exerting ourselves in helping others to progress spiritually. One way we can do this is by starting and conducting Bible studies.

3 **Starting Bible Studies:** A way to start Bible studies is by establishing a magazine route. As we regularly visit those on our route, we become better acquainted with their concerns. In time, an article in one of the magazines may serve as a springboard for introducing a Bible study in the *Require* brochure. On subsequent visits, it may be possible to continue discussions in the *Require* brochure when placing magazines with the householder.

4 **Prayerful Effort Needed:** Prayer coupled with diligent effort will enhance our preaching activity. A pioneer sister who had one Bible study prayed that Jehovah would bless her with more. She also acted in harmony with her prayers. She made an examination of her ministry and noted that she had not been offering Bible studies when making return visits. She began doing so and soon had two more studies.

5 How privileged we are to share in making known "the good news of the undeserved kindness of God"! (Acts 20:24) May gratitude for God's mercy move us to be diligent in helping others to benefit from Jehovah's undeserved kindness.

Group Witnessing Brings Joy

1 When sending forth 70 disciples to preach, Jesus instructed them on what to say, organized them into teams of two, and outlined the territory they were to cover. This contributed to the joy they experienced. (Luke 10:1-17) Similarly today, group witnessing helps to equip, organize, and encourage God's people for the preaching work.

2 **Elders Take the Lead:** Elders play a vital role in helping all to have a regular share in the preaching work. The service overseer takes the lead in making arrangements for midweek service. Each book study overseer is responsible for organizing the activity for his group, especially on the weekend. On occasions when the entire congregation meets for field service, such as following the *Watchtower* Study, each book study overseer should care for the needs of his own group.

3 **"Decently and by Arrangement":** The one designated to conduct the meeting for field service should begin on time and limit the meeting to 10 or 15 minutes. It is best that he arrange the witnessing groups and assign territory (unless the book study overseers will be caring for this, as noted earlier) before concluding with prayer. This reduces the need for publishers to congregate in the territory, which can detract from the dignity of our work. It is also in harmony with Paul's counsel: "Let all things take place decently and by arrangement." (1 Cor. 14:40) All who attend these meetings should contribute to the success of the arrangement by arriving on time, cooperating fully with the one taking the lead, and departing promptly for the territory once the group is dismissed.

4 **Drawn Together in Unity:** Group witnessing arrangements provide an excellent opportunity for us to get to know others in the congregation. While there is no objection to arranging in advance to work with someone, it can also be rewarding for us to attend meetings for field service without having prior arrangements. We may be assigned to work with someone we do not know well, thus enabling us to "widen out" in our love.—2 Cor. 6:11-13.

5 Group witnessing encourages us and draws us together as "fellow workers in the truth." (3 John 8) May we share fully in it!

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting July 14

Song 56

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 4, have two realistic demonstrations of how the July 15 *Watchtower* and the July 22 *Awake!* could be presented in the congregation's territory. In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured.

15 min: How Does the Worship of Jehovah Enrich Our Lives? Audience discussion. True worship is the key to a happy, meaningful life. (1) It helps us cope with the problems and anxieties of life. (Phil. 4:6, 7) (2) It encourages us to cultivate godly qualities. (2 Pet. 1:5-8) (3) It helps us to use our time and resources in the most worthwhile way. (1 Tim. 6:17-19) (4) It provides a sure hope for the future. (2 Pet. 3:13) (5) It enables us to develop an intimate relationship with Jehovah. (Jas. 4:8) Contrast how these things are lacking among those who do not know or serve Jehovah.

20 min: "Gratitude for God's Mercy."* When discussing paragraph 3, offer suggestions for starting a magazine route, based on the October 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8. Ask one or two capable publishers what approach they have found effective in starting Bible studies. Encourage all to make it their goal to start and conduct a Bible study.—*om* p. 91.

Song 176 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 21

Song 184

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

10 min: "New Circuit Assembly Program." Talk and audience discussion. Announce date of the next circuit assembly. If the congregation will be attending its assembly in the next few months, mention that those wishing to be baptized should inform the presiding overseer. Encourage all to make a special effort to invite Bible students and to be present for every session.

25 min: Imitate Their Boldness in Preaching. Audience discussion based on *Worship God* book, pages 170-1. Invite the audience to answer the questions posed in paragraph 7 and to include the cited scriptures in their comments. Read selected texts. Highlight the lessons we learn from these accounts and how they help us to have a proper view of our assignment to preach.

Song 201 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 28

Song 45

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for July. Using the suggestions on page 4, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the August 1 *Watchtower* and the August 8 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In one of the presentations, show the publisher witnessing informally.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Group Witnessing Brings Joy."* When discussing paragraph 3, include comments on the September 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box. Briefly interview a Congregation Book Study overseer. Ask about the field service arrangements he has made for his book study group and how the group benefits from witnessing together.

Song 36 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 4

Song 178

10 min: Local announcements. Mention literature offer for the month. Demonstrate one or two brief presentations that could be used.

20 min: "Offering Literature in Multilingual Territory."* Use the questions that are provided. When considering paragraph 3, demonstrate a simple presentation in a foreign language that is spoken in the local territory and for which there is no congregation.—*km* 7/02 p. 1 par. 4.

15 min: Young Ones Are Praising Jehovah! Talk with audience discussion and interviews. We enjoy hearing young people give well-prepared comments at meetings. Their diligence and progress in the Theocratic Ministry School are a delight. They demonstrate genuine faith as they give a fine witness in the ministry. Their godly conduct honors Jehovah. (*yb88* pp. 53-4) Their spiritual progress lays a foundation for future privileges. Briefly interview two or three Christian youths who enjoy a regular share in congregation activities. Warmly commend the youths in the congregation for their fine efforts to praise Jehovah.

Song 49 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **July and August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Before requesting additional supplies from the branch office, congregations should use what is available locally and check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand. **October:** *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies.

- Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Why Fear the True God?"

- The date of the next spring cleaning at the branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be May 8, 2004, not May 15, 2004, as was announced in the June 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry.* There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on that date.

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**209**	**107.4**	**97.2**	**54.5**	**5.0**
Pios.	**87,377**	**68.1**	**46.2**	**23.3**	**2.1**
Aux. Pios.	**92,736**	**48.1**	**36.0**	**12.4**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**811,177**	**9.5**	**8.2**	**3.6**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**991,499**		Baptized: **2,778**		

New Circuit Assembly Program

¹ Our Master foretold that his disciples would have tribulation. (Matt. 24:9) How are we to view trials? What will enable us to endure tribulation? The circuit assembly program for the 2004 service year will answer these questions. The theme is "Rejoice in the Hope. Endure Under Tribulation."—Rom. 12:12.

² **Two Symposiums:** The first symposium, entitled "Bear Fruit With Endurance," will consider ways in which we bear fruit. Several publishers will be interviewed on how they preach and teach with a sense of urgency. Parents especially will want to pay attention to the part "When Disciplined by Jehovah," which will discuss how parents can reason with their children. The final speaker of the symposium will highlight what we must do to prevent the world from making inroads and causing us to become unfruitful.—Mark 4:19.

³ "Run the Race With Endurance" is the theme of the second symposium. It will make clear how our life course is like a race. Why do we need to run according to the rules? How can we successfully put off every weight and not tire out in the race for life? The timely Scriptural counsel that will be provided will help all of us to continue running with endurance.

⁴ **Endurance Brings God's Approval:** Talks delivered by the traveling overseers will prove faith-strengthening to those who listen and apply the counsel. One of the district overseer's talks is entitled "Endurance Leads to an Approved Condition." The public talk will answer the questions: In whose name should the nations hope, and what is involved in that? The concluding talk, "By Endurance You Will Acquire Your Souls," will consider how Jesus was able to endure injustice without becoming embittered.

⁵ Remember to bring your *Ministry School* book and your *Watchtower* for the week. Take notes to help you concentrate and for future reference. A review of the program will be held later in the congregation.

⁶ Jehovah himself has prepared this banquet of spiritual food. Come! Eat! We will cry out joyfully if we are present to benefit from the entire program.—Isa. 65:14.

Offering Literature in Multilingual Territory

1 In many places, the field has come to include people from other lands. Many of these learn much more quickly and with deeper understanding when they are taught in their mother tongue. What arrangements are there to provide interested ones with Bible-based publications in the language they best understand?

2 **When to Offer Literature:** When two or more congregations speaking different languages work the same territory, the bodies of elders involved will work through the service overseers in setting up a mutually acceptable system so that each language group is given a thorough witness. When preaching from house to house, publishers would not normally offer literature in the language of the other congregation(s). However, when publishers witness informally or in public areas, they may offer literature in the languages of the community.—See the October 1990 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

3 **When to Stock Literature:** What can be done if there is a sizable foreign-language population in an area but no congregation speaking that particular language? Under those circumstances, congregations may stock a small quantity of the basic literature items that are available in that language, such as tracts, the *Require* and *God's Friend* brochures, and the *Knowledge* book. Publishers may offer this literature whenever they meet people who can read that language.

4 **How to Order Literature:** If the congregation does not stock literature in the language that an interested person reads, how can literature in that language be obtained? The publisher should check with the literature servant to determine which publications are available in that language so that the needed items can be ordered with the congregation's next literature request.

5 If faster service is necessary, the publisher may ask a member of the Congregation Service Committee if the request may be submitted *before* the congregation's next scheduled literature request. If this is approved, the literature coordinator or someone designated by him can place a rush request through the mail or by telephone to the branch office. The literature will be shipped to the congregation's regular delivery address or to a temporary delivery address, if desired. If overnight or two-day delivery is requested, the congregation will be billed for the delivery costs.

6 May we make good use of Christian publications to help "all sorts of men," regardless of their language, 'come to an accurate knowledge of truth and be saved.'—1 Tim. 2:3, 4.

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1. Why do many congregations have a need for literature in a foreign language?
2. What cooperation is needed when two or more congregations speaking different languages work the same territory?
3. When would a congregation stock foreign-language literature?
4. How can literature in a language that the congregation does not stock be obtained?
5. What can be done if literature is needed before the items on the next request would be received?
6. What is our goal in making Christian publications available?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **July 15**

"Many have noted a growing trend for people to isolate themselves. Do you think that this is a wise course? [Allow for response.] Notice this wise saying on the value of companionship. [Read Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10.] This magazine discusses why all of us need others and how the problem of isolation can be solved."

Awake! July 22

"Many people worry about the widespread availability of pornography. Do you think that this is a cause for concern? [Allow for response.] The practical counsel found in the Bible can safeguard us. [Read Ephesians 5:3, 4.] This magazine shows how we can protect ourselves from this insidious danger."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Aug. 1**

"Did you know that according to one report, over half the world's population live on less than $2 per day? Do you think that anything can be done to remedy this? [Allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* points to the permanent solution to poverty as set forth in the Bible."—Read Psalm 72:12, 13, 16.

Awake! Aug. 8

"In recent years, weather-related disasters have wreaked havoc throughout the world. What do you think might be done to alleviate the suffering this causes? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines the problem of changing weather patterns as well as the solution outlined in the Bible."—Read Isaiah 35:1.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 8/03 Vol. 46, No. 8

Work That Refreshes

1 The Bible's message refreshes all who accept and apply it in their lives. (Ps. 19:7, 8) It helps them break free from false teachings and harmful practices and offers a reliable hope for the future. However, those who receive the good news are not the only ones to benefit. Those who share refreshing Bible truths with others are themselves also refreshed.—Prov. 11:25.

2 **Invigorated by the Ministry:** Jesus said that those who accept the yoke of Christian discipleship, which includes the work of preaching and making disciples, would "find refreshment for [their] souls." (Matt. 11:29) He himself found witnessing to others invigorating. It was like food for him. (John 4:34) When he sent forth the 70 disciples to preach, they rejoiced as they saw Jehovah backing their efforts.—Luke 10:17.

3 Many Christians today are likewise invigorated by their participation in the preaching work. One sister said: "The ministry is refreshing because it gives my life direction and purpose. Personal problems and everyday stresses fade into the background when I share in the service." Another zealous minister said: "The ministry . . . makes Jehovah real to me on a daily basis and gives me peace and a measure of inward happiness that cannot be attained by any other means." What a privilege we have to be "God's fellow workers"!—1 Cor. 3:9.

4 **Christ's Yoke Is Kindly:** While Christians are exhorted to 'exert themselves vigorously,' Jesus does not demand more than we are able to give. (Luke 13:24) Indeed, he lovingly invites us to 'get under his yoke with him.' (Matt. 11:29, ftn.) Those who must contend with difficult circumstances can be confident that their whole-souled service, even if limited, is well-pleasing to God.—Mark 14:6-8; Col. 3:23.

5 How refreshing it is to serve a God who appreciates whatever we do for the sake of his name! (Heb. 6:10) May we always strive to give him our best.

Imitate Jehovah's Goodness

1 After enjoying a glorious sunset or a tasty meal, are we not moved to thank Jehovah, the Source of all goodness? His goodness impels us to want to imitate him. (Ps. 119:66, 68; Eph. 5:1) How can we manifest the quality of goodness?

2 **Toward Unbelievers:** One way we can imitate Jehovah's goodness is by showing sincere concern for those not related to us in the faith. (Gal. 6:10) Showing goodness in practical ways can have a positive effect on how they view Jehovah's Witnesses and the message we bear.

3 For example, while waiting at a medical clinic, a young pioneer brother sat next to an elderly woman who seemed sicker than most of the others present. When his turn came to see the doctor, he allowed the woman to take his place. He later met her again, this time in the market, and she was very happy to see him. Although she had previously been unreceptive to the good news, she said that she now knew that Jehovah's Witnesses truly love their neighbors. A regular Bible study was started with her.

4 **Toward Our Brothers:** We also imitate Jehovah's goodness when we extend ourselves to help fellow believers. In times of disaster, we are among the first to come to the aid of our brothers. We show this same spirit when we assist those needing transportation to meetings, visit infirm ones, and widen out in affection for those we do not know well in the congregation.—2 Cor. 6:11-13; Heb. 13:16.

5 Another way that Jehovah shows goodness is in his being "ready to forgive." (Ps. 86:5) In imitation of him, we can demonstrate our love of goodness by extending forgiveness to others. (Eph. 4:32) This helps to make our association with fellow believers 'good and pleasant.'—Ps. 133:1-3.

6 May Jehovah's abundant goodness cause us to bubble over with praise for him and to become radiant with joy. And may it move us to strive to imitate his goodness in all that we do.—Ps. 145:7; Jer. 31:12.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting August 11

Song 101

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the August 15 *Watchtower* and the August 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In one of the presentations, demonstrate how to handle the potential conversation stopper "I'm busy."—See *Reasoning* book, page 19.

15 min: "Imitate Jehovah's Goodness."* Invite the audience to relate brief experiences showing how acts of kindness have opened the way to give a witness. Commend the congregation for the efforts made to assist fellow believers.

20 min: "The Blessings of the Pioneer Ministry."* Use the questions that are provided. Invite one or two pioneers to comment on the blessings they have received from pioneering. Mention that anyone interested in pioneering can obtain an application from the secretary.

Song 11 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 18

Song 82

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Discuss "New Special Assembly Day Program." Announce the date of the next special assembly day, and urge all to attend. If the assembly will be held within the next few months, mention that those desiring to be baptized should inform the presiding overseer.

15 min: "Work That Refreshes."* Arrange in advance for two or three to comment on how the Christian ministry refreshes them.

18 min: "Let Us Keep Our Place of Worship in Good Repair."* (Paragraphs 1-5) Use the questions that are provided. When discussing paragraphs 3 and 4, review local arrangements for cleaning the Kingdom Hall. Address any matters that need attention. Commend the congregation for their efforts in maintaining a suitable place for true worship.

Song 114 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 25

Song 175

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the September 1 *Watchtower* and the September 8 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. Show a parent and a teenage son or daughter having a practice session in preparation for magazine work. They briefly review each suggested presentation before demonstrating it.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Muster Up Boldness to Preach. (1 Thess. 2:2) A talk with audience discussion. Explain why many are apprehensive about approaching others with the Kingdom message. This is true even of those who have been active for many years. Relate some of the experiences found in the December 1, 1999, *Watchtower,* page 25; the December 15, 1999, *Watchtower,* page 25; and the April 1, 1996, *Watchtower,* page 31. Invite audience to comment on how they were able to muster up boldness to share the good news on occasions when they felt fearful. Conclude with encouragement to draw strength from Jehovah, based on the December 15, 1999, *Watchtower,* pages 23-4.

Song 125 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 1

Song 84

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for August. Mention literature offer for September. Arrange in advance for one or two to relate upbuilding experiences they had while witnessing informally in connection with the district convention, during a vacation, or on other occasions during the summer months.

15 min: Do You Keep Your Promise to Return? A talk and audience discussion based on September 15, 1999, *Watchtower,* pages 10-11, under the heading "Other Ways to Keep Our Promises." When we find people in our ministry who show interest, we usually arrange to continue the discussion at another time. Do we faithfully return as promised? Review the Bible principles that should motivate us to keep our promise. Invite audience to relate experiences that show how they were blessed by returning promptly.

20 min: "Let Us Keep Our Place of Worship in Good Repair."* (Paragraphs 6-12) Use the questions that are provided. Emphasize the importance of properly maintaining the Kingdom Hall, highlighting the box on page 5. Include a brief report on the condition of your Kingdom Hall, and mention any plans to make repairs or improvements.

Song 41 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**189**	**106.9**	**97.5**	**50.4**	**5.0**
Pios.	**86,884**	**65.7**	**44.4**	**21.7**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**30,091**	**49.1**	**36.6**	**13.2**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**875,248**	**9.5**	**8.4**	**3.7**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**992,412**			Baptized:	**2,863**

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Let Us Keep Our Place of Worship in Good Repair

[1] Worldwide there are more than 94,000 congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses. Most congregations assemble for Bible study and Christian association at a Kingdom Hall, which serves as a local center of pure worship.

[2] **Regularly Scheduled Cleaning:** The work performed in maintaining the Kingdom Hall is a vital part of our sacred service. The *Our Ministry* book states on pages 61-2: "The brothers should consider it a privilege not only to support the Kingdom Hall financially but also to volunteer their services in keeping it clean, presentable and in good repair. Both inside and out, the Kingdom Hall should be a proper representation of Jehovah's organization." With the Kingdom Hall in use several times each week, there is a need for regular cleaning and maintenance. Usually volunteers from the congregation(s) meeting in the Kingdom Hall care for these matters. As in Bible times, Jehovah's servants today should be diligent in "mending and repairing" our place of worship. —2 Chron. 34:10.

[3] A schedule for the weekly cleaning of the Kingdom Hall should be posted on the information board. All book study groups should take turns in cleaning the hall each week, following a list of things to be done. All who are able need to share in the weekly privilege of keeping the Kingdom Hall clean and presentable. With parental supervision, children can be included, thereby teaching them to show appreciation for this privilege. Especially when more than one congregation uses a Kingdom Hall, good cooperation is essential so that caring for this important aspect of our worship does not fall on just a few.

[4] A list of things to be done may be posted, possibly where the supplies are kept. This list should explain duties to be performed weekly, including vacuuming, cleaning windows, dusting countertops, emptying wastebaskets, mopping floors, and cleaning mirrors. Some jobs may need to be done less regularly, such as polishing any wood furniture and thoroughly cleaning chairs, draperies, and light fixtures. All chemicals used in cleaning should be kept out of the reach of children and should be clearly labeled. A brief explanation of how each chemical is to be used should be given.

[5] Safety at the Kingdom Hall is of paramount importance. (Deut. 22:8) In this regard, the box on page 4 lists some items that need to be checked periodically so that accidents can be prevented.

[6] **Maintaining the Kingdom Hall:** The body of elders has the responsibility to supervise the maintenance of the Kingdom Hall. Generally, an elder

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1. What purpose does the Kingdom Hall serve?
2. Why is it important to keep the Kingdom Hall clean and presentable?
3. How is the cleaning of the Kingdom Hall organized, and who may have a share in this privilege?
4. What should be done so that the congregation knows what to do when cleaning the Kingdom Hall?
5. How important is safety, and what matters need to be checked periodically? (See box on page 4.)
6. How is the work of maintaining the Kingdom Hall coordinated?

or a ministerial servant is appointed to coordinate the work. He organizes the day-to-day operation of the Kingdom Hall, making sure that it is kept clean and in good repair and that there are sufficient supplies on hand. It is important that no hazardous conditions exist in the hall or on the grounds. When two or more congregations use the same hall, the bodies of elders appoint an operating committee to organize the arrangements for the care of the building and property. This committee works under the direction of the bodies of elders.

[7] A detailed inspection of the Kingdom Hall is made annually. The elders follow through by setting up arrangements to care thoroughly for any matters needing attention. The publishers may be invited to assist with needed repairs and maintenance. All should be alert to care for details and should be quick to expedite matters needing attention.

[8] If the elders feel a need for advice or assistance in caring for maintenance of the Kingdom Hall, they may contact the Regional Building Committee. This might include such matters as carpet care, the servicing of heating and air-conditioning units, and the remedying of moisture problems in the building.

[9] **Using Congregation Funds Wisely:** Most of the work on the Kingdom Hall and the grounds is performed by volunteers. Their self-sacrificing efforts are a fine expression of love and aid greatly in reducing costs. If it becomes necessary to hire a contractor to care for some work, such as pest control or snow removal, the elders seek competitive bids for such work. They do this by first preparing a detailed written description of the work to be performed and any materials to

Safety Checklist

- ☐ Fire extinguishers should be easily accessible and serviced annually.
- ☐ Any sprinkler systems should be inspected in compliance with local law.
- ☐ Exits and stairs should be clearly marked, well-lit, and freely accessible, and the handrails should be secure.
- ☐ Storage rooms, restrooms, and coatrooms should be clean, orderly, and free of highly combustible materials, personal items, and trash.
- ☐ Roof and gutters should be inspected and cleaned regularly.
- ☐ Sidewalks and parking area must be lighted and kept free of conditions that might cause slipping or falling.
- ☐ Electrical, heating, and ventilation systems should be checked and properly serviced.
- ☐ Any leaks should be fixed quickly to prevent serious moisture problems.
- ☐ The building should be locked when there is no one on the premises.

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7. (a) What is done each year to ensure that the Kingdom Hall is kept in good repair? (b) What matters require periodic attention? (See box on page 5.)
8. When might the elders contact the Regional Building Committee on maintenance matters?
9. What procedure should be followed if there is a need to hire a contractor?

be supplied. A copy of this list is given to a number of competing suppliers so that all bid with the same understanding of the requirements. After receiving written bids from several prospective providers, the elders can then select the best offer. This procedure should be followed even if a brother has offered to do the work or supply the needed materials at a specified price.

[10] The elders also take appropriate steps to obtain property- and sales-tax exemption, where this is available. When more than one congregation uses the Kingdom Hall, the operating committee maintains a separate checking account and shares monthly written financial reports with each body of elders, thus keeping the elders advised of how the funds are being spent. The elders are responsible for proper disbursement of congregation funds.

[11] **Extensive Maintenance and Renovation:** When the operating committee feels that something major is needed in connection with the Kingdom Hall's operation or maintenance, the committee refers the matter to the bodies of elders for direction. If it is determined that extensive maintenance or renovation will be necessary or that help will be needed from outside the congregation(s) meeting at that Kingdom Hall, the elders contact the Regional Building Committee. These qualified, experienced brothers provide helpful suggestions and oversight in directing the work. If a major expense is involved, it will be necessary to obtain accurate cost estimates and prepare a resolution for congregation approval.—See the February 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

[12] How greatly we appreciate our privilege of meeting together at the Kingdom Hall! Never would we want to neglect our meetings or take them for granted. All can contribute to the success of this provision for our encouragement by sharing fully in the care of our Kingdom Hall. This magnifies pure worship and brings honor to Jehovah's name. Let us be determined to keep our place of worship in good repair.

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10. What is done to ensure that congregation funds are used appropriately?

11. What should be done if extensive maintenance or renovation is necessary?

12. How can we demonstrate our appreciation for the privilege of attending meetings at the Kingdom Hall?

Care of Building and Property

- ☐ *Outside:* Are the roof, siding, paint, windows, and Kingdom Hall sign in good condition?
- ☐ *Grounds:* Are the grounds well maintained? Are the sidewalks, fences, and parking lot in good condition?
- ☐ *Interior:* Are the carpets, curtains, chairs, fixtures, wall covering, literature cabinets, and coatroom presentable?
- ☐ *Equipment:* Are the lighting, sound system, heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning in proper working order?
- ☐ *Restrooms:* Are these clean and functioning properly?
- ☐ *Congregation documents:* Are corporation or trusteeship documents up-to-date and accurate? Where required, are property-tax-exemption forms being filed annually?

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 25, 2003. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of July 7 through August 25, 2003. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What benefits come from establishing eye contact while engaging in the ministry? [*be* p. 125 pars. 1-2; p. 125 box]
2. If you get nervous before engaging in the ministry, what can help? [*be* p. 128 pars. 4-5]
3. What will help you to speak in a natural and conversational way when delivering a talk from the platform? [*be* p. 129 par. 2; p. 129 box]
4. What effect should the principles found at Leviticus 16:4, 24, 26, 28; John 13:10; and Revelation 19:8 have on our personal appearance, and why is this important? [*be* p. 131 par. 3; p. 131 box]
5. Describe a person who is modest and has "soundness of mind." (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) [*be* p. 132 par. 1]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. Although Christians must patiently put up with one another, what is not tolerated among them? (Col. 3:13) [*w*01 7/15 p. 22 pars. 7-8]
7. *True or False:* An ordinal number is a full number. Explain. [*si* p. 282 pars. 24-5]
8. What is the purest motive we can have for reading God's Word, and why is having such motivation important? [*be* p. 24 par. 1]
9. How does a wise person "treasure up knowledge"? (Prov. 10:14) [*w*01 7/15 p. 27 pars. 4-5]
10. Why are Job's good habits noteworthy? (Job 1:1, 8; 2:3) [*w*01 8/1 p. 20 par. 4]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. How were the members of the governing body able to reach the "unanimous accord" that Gentile believers were not required to be circumcised in order to be saved? (Acts 15:25)
12. How could the governing body ask that Paul carry out certain stipulations of the Mosaic Law when that Law had been canceled by Jehovah? (Acts 21:20-26) [*it*-1 p. 481 par. 3; *it*-2 p. 1163 par. 6–p. 1164 par. 1]
13. What false accusations made against the apostle Paul remind us of remarks made against Jehovah's Witnesses in recent times? (Acts 24:5, 6) [*w*01 12/15 p. 22 par. 7–p. 23 par. 2]
14. How did Paul set an example as a Kingdom proclaimer even when under house arrest for two years? (Acts 28:30, 31)
15. In what way are "the superior authorities" part of "the arrangement of God," and how should this affect Christians? (Rom. 13:1, 2) [*w*00 8/1 p. 4 par. 5]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Before requesting additional supplies from the branch office, congregations should use what is available locally and check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand. **October:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. Where householders already have these publications, offer the *Worship God* book or an older publication.

- Beginning the week of October 20, 2003, we will study *Worship the Only True God* in the Congregation Book Study.

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

- The annual inventory of all literature and magazines on hand should be taken on or as close as possible to August 31, 2003. This inventory is similar to the actual count taken monthly by the literature coordinator, and the totals should be entered on the Literature Inventory form (S-18). The total number of magazines on hand should be obtained from the magazine servant(s). The secretary of the coordinating congregation should supervise the inventory. He and the presiding overseer of the coordinating congregation will sign the form. Each coordinating congregation will receive three Literature Inventory forms (S-18). *Please mail the original to the branch office at 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483, no later than September 6.* Keep a copy for your files. The third copy may be used as a work sheet.

- On August 29 and 30, 2003, an inventory will be taken of all literature on hand at Brooklyn Bethel. Because of this, no congregation literature requests will be processed for pickup during those days.

- Congregations should begin requesting the *2004 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses, Examining the Scriptures Daily—2004,* and *2004 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed to all congregations each month.

New Special Assembly Day Program

Much information is available these days about keeping our literal heart in good condition so as to have a more enjoyable and longer life. Of even greater importance is the condition of our figurative heart. How appropriate, then, is the theme of the special assembly day program beginning in September 2003: "Serving Jehovah With a Complete Heart." (1 Chron. 28:9) What can we look forward to learning?

The circuit overseer will discuss "Helping Others to Serve Jehovah With a Delightful Soul." Interviews will highlight the joy that results from cultivating interest and conducting Bible studies with people who want to serve Jehovah. All in attendance will no doubt derive comfort and encouragement from the visiting speaker's first talk, "Guarding Our Hearts in a Troubled World." The morning session will conclude with the baptism talk.

In the afternoon, the part "Extending a Helping Hand" will consider how we can assist others. What can parents do to shield their children's hearts from wrong influences and help them draw close to Jehovah? The part "Help Your Children Take Delight in Jehovah" will provide practical suggestions and will demonstrate how this can be done.

Are we taking advantage of every provision Jehovah makes to keep our figurative heart healthy and strong? The visiting speaker's final talk, "Maintain a Complete Heart in Serving Jehovah," will focus on four essential aspects of our spiritual maintenance program. How much time and effort do we devote to earnest prayer, to studying God's Word, to zealously preaching, and to associating with other Christians? Can we improve in any of these areas?

Jehovah extends the invitation: "Do bring your heart to discipline and your ear to the sayings of knowledge." (Prov. 23:12) Plan now to attend this rewarding day of Scriptural instruction. Doing so will strengthen you to keep on serving Jehovah with a complete heart and a delightful soul.

The Blessings of the Pioneer Ministry

1 “I know that no other work could have brought me the satisfaction that has come from sharing the truth with others,” said one pioneer. Another stated: “At the end of each day, my sleep is sweet, and my heart is full of joy.” These pioneers speak for brothers and sisters everywhere who have tasted the blessings of the pioneer ministry.—Prov. 10:22.

2 Helping others to acquire the lifesaving knowledge of God’s Word brings genuine satisfaction. (Acts 20:35; 1 Thess. 2: 19, 20) “It is exciting and faith-strengthening to see how powerful God’s Word is in motivating people to make changes in their lives,” wrote a longtime pioneer. Yes, by making themselves available to help people and conduct Bible studies, pioneers put themselves in line for blessings like these.

3 **Relying on Jehovah:** Daily relying on God’s spirit as they carry out their ministry helps pioneers to cultivate “the fruitage of the spirit” and serves as a protection for them. (Gal. 5:16, 22, 23) In addition, since they use God’s Word constantly, pioneers are often adept at using the Scriptures to defend the truth and to strengthen others. (2 Tim. 2:15) A brother who has pioneered for decades commented: “Pioneering has helped me to acquire a deep knowledge of the Bible, a knowledge I have used to help many people to get to know Jehovah and his purposes.” How rewarding!

4 Regular pioneers must also rely on Jehovah in many other ways. Their faith is strengthened as they see how he blesses their efforts to provide for their material needs. A 72-year-old regular pioneer of 55 years stated: “Jehovah has never let me down.” Furthermore, by keeping their lives simple, pioneers safeguard themselves from many anxieties of life. Does this appeal to you?—Matt. 6:22; Heb. 13:5, 6.

5 **Drawing Close to God:** Our relationship with Jehovah is a most precious possession. (Ps. 63:3) When we share fully in the ministry out of love for Jehovah, that relationship grows closer. (Jas. 4:8) A pioneer of over 18 years said: “The pioneer service allows us to ‘taste and see that Jehovah is good,’ day after day knitting an ever stronger relationship with our Creator.”—Ps. 34:8.

6 In addition to having the necessary circumstances, pioneers must have strong faith, genuine love of God and neighbor, and a willingness to make sacrifices. (Matt. 16:24; 17:20; 22:37-39) However, as the beaming faces of pioneers everywhere testify, the blessings of the pioneer ministry are surpassing. (Mal. 3:10) These blessings are not limited to just the pioneers, but their families and the congregation also greatly benefit from the fine spirit the pioneers show.—Phil. 4:23.

1, 2. What blessings are closely associated with the pioneer ministry, and why?

3, 4. How does pioneering teach one to rely on Jehovah, and how does this help one to grow spiritually?

5. How does pioneering help one to draw close to Jehovah?

6. What must pioneers have, and who besides the pioneers themselves benefit?

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER Aug. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

“Most people value a good reputation. Some even wonder how they will be remembered after they are gone. Have you ever thought about that? [Allow for response. Then read Ecclesiastes 7:1.] *The Watchtower* discusses how we can acquire a good name both with men and with God.”

Awake! Aug. 22

“If you or a member of your family has ever faced bullying, you know how distressing it can be. [Allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* provides practical suggestions for the victims of bullying. It also discusses God’s promise of a time when life will be completely free of such problems.” Read Micah 4:4.

THE WATCHTOWER Sept. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

“Many people feel that the various religions of mankind are simply different paths leading to the same goal. Others believe that there is only one true faith. Have you wondered about this? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines an ancient parable that sheds light on this question.” Highlight Matthew 13:24-30.

Awake! Sept. 8

“Fashion trends exert a strong influence on the lives of many people today. Some feel that too much emphasis is placed on what people wear and how they look. What do you think? [Allow for response.] *Awake!* presents a balanced view of fashion.” Read Colossians 3:12.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 9/03 Vol. 46, No. 9

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

"God kept making it grow." (1 Cor. 3:6) How thrilling it has been to see the growth in the United States field! During the 2003 service year, over 70,000 new Bible studies were started. This is commendable.

Jehovah is blessing the activity in the foreign-language field. Congregations or groups have been established in 37 languages besides English and Spanish. Recently, the first Amharic and Indonesian congregations in the branch territory were formed. May we strive to reach the estimated 28 million foreign-born people living in the United States.

To supply literature for the growing worldwide field, the printery at Watchtower Farms, near Wallkill, New York, is being expanded. Good progress is being made in adding three and a half acres of floor space. This is equivalent to 30 average-size Kingdom Halls! Two large, state-of-the-art printing presses are scheduled to arrive early in 2004. Each press will be able to produce up to 25 magazines a second. New bindery and shipping equipment will also be installed during 2004. This will result in greater production with reduced personnel.

As we begin the 2004 service year, we join with you in praying that Jehovah will 'keep making it grow.'

Your brothers,

U. S. Branch Office

Clothe Yourselves With Humility

1 A shepherd boy trusts in Jehovah and defeats a mighty warrior. (1 Sam. 17:45-47) A wealthy man patiently endures calamity. (Job 1:20-22; 2:9, 10) God's Son directs all credit for his teaching to his Father. (John 7:15-18; 8:28) In each of these examples, humility played a key role. Similarly today, humility is vital in the situations that we face. —Col. 3:12.

2 **When Preaching:** As Christian ministers, we humbly share the good news with people of all sorts, not prejudging them on the basis of their race, culture, or background. (1 Cor. 9:22, 23) If some are rude or arrogantly reject the Kingdom message, we do not respond in kind but patiently go on searching for deserving ones. (Matt. 10:11, 14) Rather than trying to impress others with our knowledge or education, we direct attention to God's Word, recognizing that it is more persuasive than anything that we might say. (1 Cor. 2:1-5; Heb. 4:12) In imitation of Jesus, we give all praise to Jehovah.—Mark 10:17, 18.

3 **In the Congregation:** Christians must also 'gird themselves with lowliness of mind toward one another.' (1 Pet. 5:5) If we consider others as superior to ourselves, we will look for ways to serve our brothers rather than expecting them to serve us. (John 13:12-17; Phil. 2:3, 4) We will not feel that we are above such tasks as cleaning the Kingdom Hall.

4 Humility helps us to 'put up with one another in love' and thus promotes peace and unity in the congregation. (Eph. 4:1-3) It helps us to be in subjection to those who are appointed to take the lead. (Heb. 13:17) It moves us to accept any counsel or discipline we may be given. (Ps. 141:5) And humility prompts us to rely on Jehovah when we care for any privileges we may receive in the congregation. (1 Pet. 4:11) Like David, we recognize that success depends not on human ability but on God's blessing. —1 Sam. 17:37.

5 **Before Our God:** Above all, we need to 'humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.' (1 Pet. 5:6) If we must contend with trying circumstances, we may long for the relief that the Kingdom will bring. But we humbly exercise patience, waiting for Jehovah to fulfill his promises at his appointed time. (Jas. 5:7-11) As was true of integrity-keeping Job, our foremost concern is that "the name of Jehovah continue to be blessed."—Job 1:21.

6 The prophet Daniel 'humbled himself before his God' and was blessed with Jehovah's favor and many fine privileges. (Dan. 10:11, 12) May we likewise clothe ourselves with humility, knowing that "the result of humility and the fear of Jehovah is riches and glory and life."—Prov. 22:4.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting September 8

Song 10

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage all to review their notes from the circuit assembly program for the past service year in preparation for next week's Service Meeting. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate realistic demonstrations of how to present the September 15 *Watchtower* and the September 22 *Awake!* In one presentation, show a student or a parent witnessing to a schoolteacher.

10 min: Branch Letter. A discussion between a longtime publisher, preferably an elder, and a younger publisher. The younger publisher asks if the experienced publisher has seen the letter from the branch office in *Our Kingdom Ministry.* The experienced publisher explains that the branch letter was a feature of *Our Kingdom Ministry* during the 1960's and 1970's. They then discuss the letter on the front page, highlighting the main points.

25 min: "Youths—Build a Fine Foundation for the Future."* To be handled by an elder, using the questions that are provided. When discussing paragraph 5, highlight the joys and blessings of full-time service.

Song 170 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 15

Song 199

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

10 min: "Studying the *Worship God* Book." Talk by a book study overseer. Draw attention to the study schedule. When discussing the fourth paragraph, include comments on the *Ministry School* book, page 28, paragraph 1, and page 70.

25 min: "Trust in Jehovah and Do Good." (Ps. 37:3) Audience discussion based on the following questions, which highlight key points of the circuit assembly program for the past service year. Invite audience to include comments on how they were able to apply key points personally or as family groups. Feature these program parts: (1) "Manifesting Trust in Jehovah." Why is it vital to display trust in Jehovah in all aspects of life? (*it*-2 p. 521) How can the *Watch Tower Publications Index* help us? (2) "Guard Against the Vanities of Life." (Eccl. 2:4-8, 11) What vain works must we guard against, and how can we do so? (3) "Shun the Bad—Be Doers of Good." Why is it vital to adhere to Jehovah's standards? (Isa. 5:20) With what good works should we be busy? (4) "Maintaining Our Confidence in Jehovah." What will help us to stand firm in the face of trials and temptations? Why may we need to leave some things in Jehovah's hands? (5) "Will You Be Counted Worthy of the Kingdom of God?" (Col. 1:10) What Bible examples stimulate us to continue walking worthily of Jehovah? (6) "Trust in Jehovah's Promises." How will doing this affect our lives?

Song 58 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 22

Song 7

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the October 1 *Watchtower* and the October 8 *Awake!* Show an elder and an infirm publisher doing telephone witnessing.

15 min: How Did We Do Last Year? The service overseer reviews highlights from the congregation report for the 2003 service year. Commend the congregation for the good things accomplished. Include appropriate points from the last report by the circuit overseer. Mention one or two reachable goals for the coming year.

20 min: "Increased Activity at United States Bethel." Talk and audience discussion.

Song 39 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 29

Song 194

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for September. Mention the literature offer for October. Have a brief demonstration of how to start a Bible study in the *Require* brochure.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Clothe Yourselves With Humility."* Draw comments from the audience on how the scriptures apply.

Song 224 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 6

Song 170

10 min: Local announcements. This month we are making a special effort to start Bible studies. Briefly review the May 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 1, paragraph 1.

15 min: "Be Sure to Put First Things First!" Talk and audience discussion based on the article in the September 1, 1998, *Watchtower,* pages 19-21. Mention the dates of the theocratic events scheduled for the next several months, and encourage all to mark these dates on their calendar. Invite audience to comment on what they do to avoid missing out on spiritual provisions.

20 min: Standing Up to Peer Pressure. Interview an elder or a ministerial servant who was raised in a Christian household. Refer to selected points from the February 15, 2003, *Watchtower.* What pressure did the brother face at school? (p. 24 par. 3; p. 25 pars. 4-5) Did he face any negative influence from others? (p. 26 pars. 4-6) Does he still face peer pressure as an adult? What has helped him to resist the pressure to conform? In brief concluding talk based on the August 1, 1999, *Watchtower,* pages 24-5, highlight the benefits of cultivating wholesome association.

Song 26 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**167**	**105.6**	**92.3**	**49.7**	**5.1**
Pios.	**84,934**	**62.8**	**41.4**	**20.5**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**22,423**	**49.3**	**34.6**	**12.7**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**856,063**	**9.2**	**8.1**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**963,587**		Baptized:	**4,322**	

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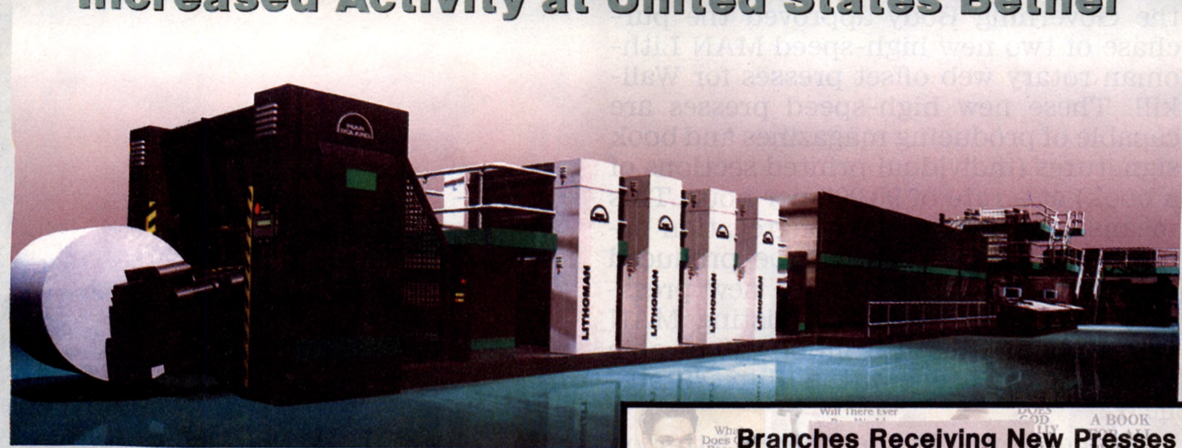
Increased Activity at United States Bethel



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Branches Receiving New Presses and Delivery Dates

Britain:	August 2003
Brazil:	November 2003
Japan:	January 2004
Mexico:	February 2004
South Africa:	April 2004
United States:	April and May 2004

Increased theocratic activity brings greater joy. So there is great rejoicing as the United States branch prepares to move its printing, binding, and shipping operations from Brooklyn to Wallkill, New York. The existing printery at Wallkill is being renovated, a large addition is under construction, and new equipment has been purchased and will soon be installed.

Since 1927, the printery in Brooklyn has produced over one billion books. There is, however, a need to update our older printing and binding equipment, some of which is 44 years old. This older equipment requires more maintenance and manpower to operate. The existing facilities in Brooklyn cannot accommodate the larger, more productive equipment that we need. Therefore, it was determined that the printery operations should be moved to Wallkill where efficient printing, binding, and shipping equipment could be installed.

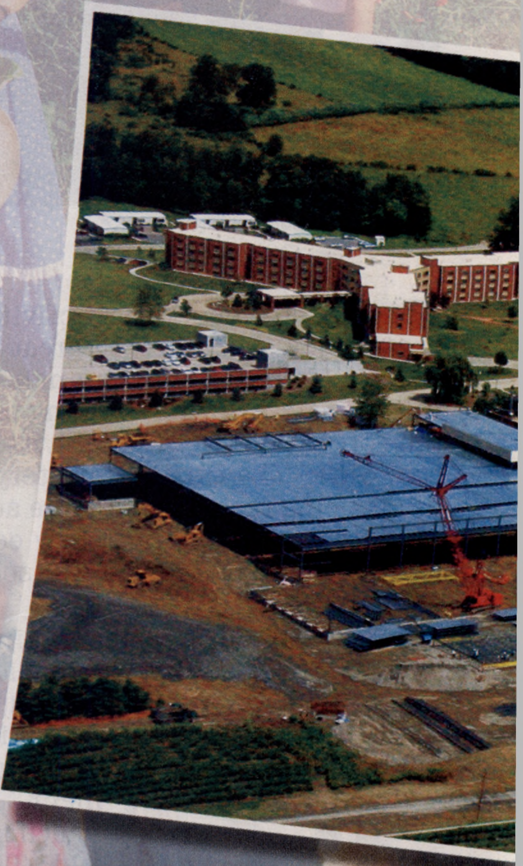
117 Adams Street building in 1927

The consolidation of the U.S. printery operations at Wallkill would not be possible without the recent reorganization of our worldwide production of books. Prior to this reorganization, the United States branch produced almost 50 percent of the books used in our work worldwide. Some book production has been shifted to other branches, making better use of their facilities and leaving the United States with a reduced workload. It will also be necessary to provide six branches, including the United States, with a total of seven new printing presses. The use of new, more efficient equipment will make it possible to increase production worldwide with reduced personnel.

New Equipment for Wallkill Printery: It was with great excitement that the Bethel family received the news that the Governing Body approved the purchase of two new high-speed MAN Lithoman rotary web offset presses for Wallkill. These new high-speed presses are capable of producing magazines and book signatures (individual printed sections of a book) at a rate of 90,000 per hour. This means that an average congregation order of 350 magazines can be produced in just 14 seconds. The two new presses, along with the three existing MAN Lithoman presses at Wallkill, will be able to supply the needs of the United States field.

As mentioned in the branch letter on the first page of this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* new bindery equipment will also be installed at Wallkill. The new equipment is capable of producing hardcover books and deluxe Bibles at a rate of 120 a minute. The bindery will be set up with much of the equipment linked together by conveyors, allowing for efficient use of space and personnel.

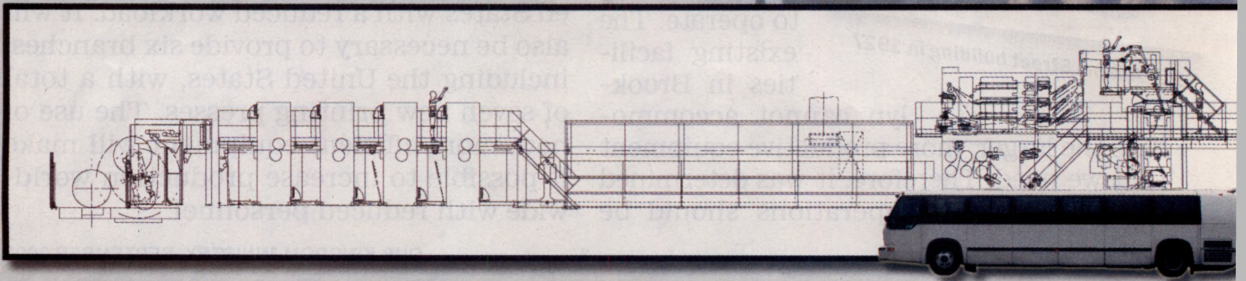
The Shipping Department is also being designed for greater accuracy and efficiency by making better use of computer tools. A new high-rise storage system will allow literature to be stored in less than half the floor space currently used in Brooklyn. These improvements will contribute to a streamlined flow of literature to the over 12,000 congregations and groups in the United States and other areas we serve.



July 2003 view

Press compared to a city bus

Length: 133 feet   Height: 18 feet   Weight: 201 tons



Progression of work

January 2003

April 2003

July 2003

Construction Update: The progress on the printery addition at Wallkill has been excellent, with significant milestones reached successfully! The shell of the building, from foundation to roof, will be completed next month. Landscaping is nearly complete, and a massive mechanical system is being installed. Efforts to complete the interior, along with exterior finish work, have commenced in earnest. Work is also under way to renovate the existing printery building to accommodate new equipment.

The printery addition is scheduled to be substantially completed by February 2004 so that presses can be installed. There will be a total of 590,000 square feet, or 13 acres, of space ready for use. This includes a new 140,000-square-foot building and the renovation of the existing 450,000-square-foot printery building. To put this in perspective, it is the equivalent of 8 Assembly Halls or 125 Kingdom Halls.

Your Help Is Appreciated! Doubtless, it is the desire of each one of us to support this advancement of Kingdom interests fully. The number volunteering to assist with the construction work will likely exceed 1,000, and their assistance is greatly appreciated. Circumstances may not permit most of us to assist with the actual work, yet we are eager to provide support. How can we do so?

The total cost for the printery addition at Wallkill, including two of the seven new presses and other new production equipment, will likely be $50 million. Where does the money come from to pay for all of it? From voluntary contributions placed in the box marked "Contributions for the Worldwide Work—Matthew 24:14" in every Kingdom Hall, together with donations sent to the branch office by Christians who wish to see the will of God accomplished. Where there has been a need, Jehovah's loyal servants have always responded generously. For example, in Moses' day, material things were needed to construct the tabernacle with all its glorious attachments and utensils. The privilege of sharing in building the tabernacle went out to all of God's servants, and they gave according to their ability.—Ex. 35:4-24.

As this tremendous project nears completion (likely in early 2005), we will inform the congregations so that individuals and families can arrange to visit the new facilities. In the meantime, may we take this opportunity to thank you for making possible the greatly increased theocratic activity at the United States branch. May Jehovah continue to bless all of us spiritually as a result.

"... the people continued to have a heart for working."—Neh. 4:6.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Before requesting additional supplies from the branch office, congregations should use what is available locally and check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* If people already have these, *Worship the Only True God* or an older publication may be offered. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.*
- U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office within 30 days after reaching 18 years of age. A male noncitizen under the age of 26 who takes up residency in the United States must also register with Selective Service within 30 days of becoming a resident. All of those required to do so should comply with this law, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. From the time he registers until the year he turns 26, a brother must notify Selective Service of any change of address within ten days of the change. Elders should be aware of young brothers nearing the age of 18 and new alien residents between the ages of 18 and 26 and remind them of their duty to register with the Selective Service System.
- The branch office does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the branch so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.
- The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated ones who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.
- The special public talk for the 2004 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 18. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 18, 2004.
- The *Annual Congregation Property Documents Review Work Sheet* (T-33-E) is to be completed each September by the secretary of the congregation holding title to Kingdom Hall property. Each congregation sharing use of the property should promptly receive a copy of the completed work sheet. If corrective actions are needed, the elders should care for these to protect the interests of the congregation. When the circuit overseer visits the congregation, he will review the congregation property documents and the *Safety Inspection Work Sheet* (T-34-E).

Worship the Only True God
Study Schedule for 2003

Oct. 20: chap. 1
27: chap. 2
Nov. 3: chap. 3
10: chap. 4
17: chap. 5
24: chap. 6
Dec. 1: chap. 7
8: chap. 8
15: chap. 9
22: chap. 10
29: chap. 11

Study Schedule for 2004

Jan. 5: chap. 12
12: chap. 13
19: chap. 14
26: chap. 15
Feb. 2: chap. 16
9: chap. 17
16: chap. 18
23: chap. 19
Mar. 1: chap. 20
8: chap. 21

Studying the *Worship God* Book

Worship the Only True God is designed to be studied with new ones after they have completed a study of the *Knowledge* book. Our consideration of this publication at the Congregation Book Study will equip us to use this tool in the ministry and will help us to deepen our love and appreciation for Jehovah and his organization. How can we benefit fully from our study of the *Worship God* book?

Conducting the Study: Since we will be considering a full chapter each week, book study overseers will need to apportion the time wisely. They will want to keep the study moving during the introductory paragraphs to allow more time for the weightier material, which generally appears later in the chapter. Briefly discussing the review box at the conclusion of each study will assist those present to retain the key points.

Indented questions for meditation and discussion appear in about half the chapters of the *Worship God* book. An example can be found on pages 48-9. It is not necessary for such questions to be read along with the paragraphs. When considering them with the group, the overseer should have the cited scriptures read and discussed as time permits.

Advance Preparation: Preparing well for the study involves more than underlining the answers. Prayerful meditation on the cited scriptures will enable us to prepare not only our comments but, more important, our hearts. (Ezra 7:10) All of us can contribute to an interchange of encouragement by modestly offering our comments.—Rom. 1:11, 12.

Our study of the *Worship God* book will help us to draw close to Jehovah and will equip us to help honesthearted ones join us in worshiping him. (Ps. 95:6; Jas. 4:8) May all of us benefit fully from this fine spiritual provision.

Youths—Build a Fine Foundation for the Future

[1] What is foremost in your mind? What do you think about? Are your primary concerns centered on things present, or do they reach into the future and focus on what God has promised? (Matt. 6:24, 31-33; Luke 8:14) Strong faith is needed to act on God's promises, as can be seen from the examples of Abraham and Moses. (Heb. 11:8-10, 24-26) How can you develop such faith and build "a fine foundation for the future"?—1 Tim. 6:19.

[2] **Search for Jehovah:** If you have a routine of spiritual activity with your family, that is commendable. But do not assume that such a routine will automatically produce strong faith. To find "the very knowledge of God," you must personally search for Jehovah. (Prov. 2:3-5; 1 Chron. 28:9) Young King Josiah did that. Despite growing up in a less-than-ideal spiritual environment, "he started to search for the God of David his forefather" when he was 15 years old.—2 Chron. 34:3.

[3] How can you search for Jehovah? By carefully examining what you believe and 'proving to yourself' that it really is the truth. (Rom. 12:2) For example, can you explain what the Bible says about blood or prove that God's Kingdom began ruling in the heavens in 1914? Acquiring "an accurate knowledge of truth" is an important part of building a fine foundation for the future.—1 Tim. 2:3, 4.

[4] Josiah's search for God yielded good results. Before he reached the age of 20, he acted courageously to rid the land of false worship. (2 Chron. 34:3-7) Likewise, your spiritual progress will become manifest by your actions. (1 Tim. 4:15) If you are an unbaptized publisher, strive to improve the quality of your ministry. Do not be content simply to offer literature. Make it your aim to use the Bible, to reason with people, and to cultivate the interest that you find. (Rom. 12:7) This will help you to grow spiritually.

[5] **Give Jehovah Your Best:** When you symbolize your dedication to Jehovah by getting baptized, you become an ordained minister of God. (2 Cor. 3:5, 6) This opens up opportunities for you to serve Jehovah full-time. These include pioneering as well as Bethel, missionary, and international service. Still other ways to expand your ministry are by learning another language or by moving to serve where the need is greater.

[6] Of course, not all can make themselves available for these privileges of service, but each of us can give Jehovah his best. (Matt. 22:37) Whatever your circumstances, make serving Jehovah the focus of your life. (Ps. 16:5) By so doing, you will be building a fine foundation for the future.

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1. Why do Christian youths need to develop strong faith?
2. What do we learn from King Josiah's example?
3. How can young Christians today search for Jehovah?
4. How can unbaptized publishers make their advancement manifest?
5. What opportunities to expand their ministry are available to baptized Christians?
6. How can all of us build a fine foundation for the future?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Sept. 15**

"In today's world some feel they are trapped in a loveless marriage. Where can people like that turn for help? [Allow for response.] The Bible assures us that God's principles can aid us. [Read Isaiah 48:17, 18.] This issue of *The Watchtower* considers Bible principles that can strengthen a marriage."

Awake! Sept. 22

"We marvel at the ability animals have to communicate. But did you know that in certain respects humans are unique? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 65:2.] Unlike animals, we desire to communicate with God. This magazine discusses how we can enjoy good communication both with people and with God."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Oct. 1**

"Have you ever asked, 'If God is loving and all-powerful, why doesn't he intervene in behalf of those who are suffering?' [Allow for response.] Soon he will end all problems. [Read Isaiah 65:17.] In the meantime, God is not simply observing indifferently while we suffer, as this magazine shows."

Awake! Oct. 8

"Have you heard that many farmers are finding it difficult to continue farming for a living? [Allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses this problem as well as the Bible's promise of better times ahead. [Read Psalm 72:16.] When I return, I would like to explain how God will accomplish this."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 10/03 Vol. 46, No. 10

District and International Conventions Stir Us to Give God Glory!

The "Give God Glory" District and International Conventions held to date have given a tremendous witness. These significant theocratic events have served to magnify Jehovah's name and enhance our ability to "ascribe to Jehovah the glory belonging to his name." (Ps. 96:8) Truly, he deserves to be glorified because of his wonderful creative works, which reflect his marvelous attributes.—Job 37:14; Rev. 4:11.

Using the following questions along with your personal notes, prepare for and participate in the review of the convention program to be held during the week of October 20.

1. How does inanimate creation declare God's glory, and how does that differ from the way in which humans praise him? (Ps. 19:1-3; "Creation Declares the Glory of God")

2. What present reality does the transfiguration foreshadow, and in what way are Christians today spurred on by this reality? (Keynote address, "Glorious Prophetic Visions Spur Us On!")

3. How can we cultivate the kind of humility displayed by the prophet Daniel, and how will we benefit from doing so? (Dan. 9:2, 5; 10:11, 12; "Jehovah's Glory Revealed to Humble Ones")

4. (a) What three things about divine judgment can we learn from the prophecy of Amos? (Amos 1:3, 11, 13; 9:2-4, 8, 14) (b) What practical lesson can Jehovah's Witnesses today draw from the warning example found at Amos 2:12? ("The Prophecy of Amos—Its Message for Our Day")

5. (a) What are the dangers of the immoderate use of alcohol, even if a person does not get drunk? (b) How may a problem with immoderateness be corrected? (Mark 9:43; Eph. 5:18; "Avoid the Snare of Alcohol Abuse")

6. How are you benefiting from the new publication *"See the Good Land"*? ("'The Good Land'—Foregleam of Paradise")

7. In what three ways may we "reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah"? (2 Cor. 3:18; "Reflect Like Mirrors the Glory of Jehovah")

8. What is the source of unjustified hatred, and what can help us to maintain our integrity despite experiencing such hatred? (Ps. 109:1-3; "Hated Without Cause")

9. What is the Christlike view of greatness, and how may a person determine that he needs to develop this viewpoint more fully? (Matt. 20:20-26; "Cultivating a Christlike View of Greatness")

10. What can help us to stay spiritually vigorous despite physical weariness? ("Tired but Not Tiring Out")

11. What are some of the agencies through which Satan promotes falsehood, and what is the appropriate Scriptural response to attempts at subverting our faith? (John 10:5; "Beware of 'the Voice of Strangers'")

12. (a) How can parents follow Jesus' example as recorded at Mark 10:14, 16? (b) What do you like about the new book *Learn From the Great Teacher?* ("Our Children—A Precious Inheritance")

13. How are youths praising Jehovah? (1 Tim. 4:12; "How Youths Are Praising Jehovah")

14. What scenes from the drama "Boldly Witnessing Despite Opposition" stand out in your memory?

15. How may we imitate the example set by (a) Peter and John? (Acts 4:10) (b) Stephen? (Acts 7:2, 52, 53) (c) the first-century Christian congregation? (Acts 9:31; drama and the talk "Declare the Good News 'Without Letup'")

16. (a) We resolved to give God glory in what ways? (b) Of what can we be assured as we apply what we learned at the "Give God Glory" Conventions? (John 15:9, 10, 16; "'Keep Bearing Much Fruit' to Jehovah's Glory")

By meditating on the fine spiritual instruction presented at the convention, we will be moved to put into practice the things that we learned. (Phil. 4:8, 9) This will strengthen our determination to "do all things for God's glory."—1 Cor. 10:31.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting October 13

Song 215

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage all to use the questions on page 1 for reviewing their notes in preparation for the audience discussion of the "Give God Glory" Convention program at next week's Service Meeting. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two realistic demonstrations of how to present the October 15 *Watchtower* and the October 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In one of the presentations, demonstrate making a return visit on a magazine-route call. Lay the groundwork for the next visit by drawing attention to the box "In Our Next Issue."—See the October 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 8, pars. 7-8.

20 min: "Serve Jehovah With Rejoicing."* (All should have the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert with them for this discussion.) After discussing paragraph 4, mention that during November we will be offering the *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book. Briefly review one of the suggested presentations from the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Then show a practice session in which that presentation is demonstrated. Encourage all to prepare well for the ministry.

15 min: Conducting Bible Studies Brings Blessings. Talk and audience discussion. Relate a few experiences from our publications involving progressive Bible studies. (*w*00 3/1 p. 6; *yb98* pp. 55-60) Invite the audience to comment on what we learn from the experiences and how we benefit from conducting Bible studies.

Song 172 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 20

Song 86

5 min: Local announcements.

40 min: "District and International Conventions Stir Us to Give God Glory!" To be handled by an elder. Following an introduction of one minute or less, conduct an audience discussion of the convention program using the questions in the article. Apportion the time so as to accommodate all the questions, perhaps entertaining only one answer on some questions. Not all cited scriptures can be read in the time allotted; these are included for ease in locating answers. Comments should focus on the benefits of applying the things learned.

Song 112 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 27

Song 64

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for October. Encourage all to review their notes from the special assembly day program for the past service year in preparation for next week's Service Meeting. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the November 1 *Watchtower* and the November 8 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In one of the presentations, demonstrate how to handle the conversation stopper "I'm not interested."—See *Reasoning* book, p. 16.

20 min: Use the Sword of the Spirit. (Eph. 6:17) Audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 143-4. Invite comments on these questions: (1) Why do we use the Bible when responding to questions? (2) What does the name Jehovah's Witnesses indicate about us? (3) What example did Jesus set, and how can we imitate him? (4) In the local territory, what are some effective ways to introduce Biblical thoughts? (5) Why is it good to read directly from the Bible whenever possible? (6) How can elders encourage others to make good use of the Bible? Have a well-prepared demonstration based on the exercise on page 144 in which a capable publisher uses at least one scripture in answering a question. Encourage all to make it their goal to use the Bible each time they give a witness.

13 min: Local experiences. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed in connection with attending the district convention or while witnessing informally at work, at school, or elsewhere.

Song 52 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 3

Song 147

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs.

25 min: Be Rich in Fine Works. (1 Tim. 6:18) Using the questions provided here, an elder conducts an audience discussion of the special assembly day program that was held during the past service year. Invite congregation to relate how they have been able to apply what they learned. (Portions can be assigned in advance.) Highlight the following program parts: (1) "Fine Works Bring Great Gain." (Eccl. 2:11) Why do servants of God pursue the fine works described in God's Word rather than the vain works of this world? (2) "Be Rich From God's Standpoint." (Matt. 6:20) How have some 'stored up treasures in heaven,' and with what benefits? (3) "Enrich Your Ministry With a Bible Study." (*om* p. 91) What can help us to start and conduct a Bible study? (4) "Fine Works in This Time of Harvest." (Matt. 13:37-39) What example of fine works did the early Christians set, and how has the Kingdom work expanded in our day? (5) "Let Your Fine Works Glorify Jehovah." (Matt. 5:14-16) How have some 'let their light shine'? (6) "Commending Youths for Fine Works in Praising Jehovah." (Ps. 148:12, 13) How are Christian youths in our circuit giving praise to Jehovah? (7) "Continue in Fine Works and Reap Jehovah's Blessings." (Prov. 10:22) As we keep busy in fine works, what blessings can be reaped as an individual, as a family, as a congregation, and as a worldwide organization?

Song 180 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	174	104.5	92.0	48.5	4.5
Pios.	84,955	62.4	41.1	20.4	2.0
Aux. Pios.	23,039	50.4	35.1	12.2	1.1
Pubs.	878,013	9.5	8.4	3.6	0.4
TOTAL	986,181		Baptized:	4,948	

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THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 2004

INSTRUCTIONS

During 2004 the following will be the arrangements for conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

SOURCE MATERIAL: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [*bi12*], *The Watchtower* [*w*], *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education* [*be*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [*si*], and *Reasoning From the Scriptures* (1989 Edition) [*rs*].

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and remarks of welcome and then proceed as follows:

SPEECH QUALITY: 5 minutes. The school overseer, the auxiliary counselor, or another qualified elder will discuss a speech quality based on the *Ministry School* textbook. (In congregations with a limited number of elders, a qualified ministerial servant may be used.) Unless otherwise indicated, the boxes appearing on the assigned pages should be included in the discussion. The exercises should be omitted. These are primarily for personal use and private counsel.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 10 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant, and it will be based on *The Watchtower, Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education,* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* It is to be delivered as a ten-minute instruction talk with no oral review. The objective should be to cover the material while at the same time focusing attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used. It is expected that brothers assigned this talk will be careful to *keep within the time limit.* Private counsel may be given as needed.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 10 minutes. For the first six minutes, a qualified elder or ministerial servant should apply the material to local needs. He may comment on any portion of the assigned Bible reading for the week. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. The principal objective is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value. The speaker should be careful not to exceed the six minutes allotted for the opening portion. He should ensure that four minutes are set aside for audience participation. The audience should be invited to offer *brief* comments (30 seconds or less) on what they have appreciated in the Bible reading and its benefits. The school overseer will then dismiss the students who are assigned to other classrooms.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 4 minutes. This is a reading to be given by a brother. The reading will usually be from the Bible. Once a month this assignment will cover material drawn from *The Watchtower*. The student should read the assigned material without giving an introduction or a conclusion. From week to week, the amount of material to be read will vary slightly but should take four minutes or less. The school overseer should look over the material before making the assignments, matching such to the age and ability of the students. The school overseer will be especially interested in helping students to read with understanding, fluency, proper sense stress, modulation, appropriate pausing, and naturalness.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. Students receiving this assignment will either be assigned a setting or select one from the list appearing on page 82 of the *Ministry School* textbook. The student should use the assigned theme and apply it to an aspect of field service that is realistic and practical for the territory of the local congregation. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in publications provided by the faithful and discreet slave class. Newer students should be given assignments for which references are supplied. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student develops the material and the way she helps the householder to reason on the Scriptures and to understand the key points of the presentation. Students assigned this part should know how to read. The school overseer will assign one assistant.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. The student should develop the assigned theme. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in publications provided by the faithful and discreet slave class. When assigned to a brother, this part may be given as a talk with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When a sister is given this part, it should always be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3. The school overseer may give a brother assignment No. 4 whenever he sees fit to do so. Please note that themes with asterisks next to them should always be assigned to brothers to develop as talks.

TIMING: No talk should go overtime, nor should the remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 2 through 4 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. If brothers handling the opening talk on a speech quality, Assignment No. 1, or highlights from the Bible reading go overtime, they should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully. Total program: 45 minutes, excluding song and prayer.

COUNSEL: 1 minute. The school overseer will take no more than *one minute* after each student presentation to offer some positive observations on an aspect of the talk that was commendable. His aim is not simply to say "well done" but, rather, to draw attention to specific reasons why that aspect of the presentation was effective. According to the need of each student, additional constructive counsel may be given privately after the meeting or at another time.

AUXILIARY COUNSELOR: The body of elders may select a capable elder, if one is available in addition to the school overseer, to handle the assignment as auxiliary counselor. If there are a number of elders in the congregation, then a different qualified elder may care for this assignment each year. The auxiliary counselor's responsibility will be to give private counsel, if needed, to brothers who present Assignment No. 1 and Bible highlights. It is not necessary that he offer counsel after each of such talks by fellow elders or ministerial servants. This arrangement will remain in effect during 2004 and may be adjusted thereafter.

COUNSEL FORM: In textbook.

ORAL REVIEW: 30 minutes. Every two months, the school overseer will conduct an oral review. It will be preceded by the consideration of a speech quality and highlights from the Bible reading as outlined above. The oral review will be based on material considered in the school over the preceding two months, including the current week.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 5 Bible reading: Genesis 1-5 **Song 154**
Speech Quality: Practical Value Made Clear (*be* p. 157 ¶1–p. 158 ¶1)
No. 1: Making an Outline (*be* pp. 39-42)
No. 2: Genesis 2:7-25
No. 3: Does the "New Testament" Refer to a Future Earthly Paradise, or Is That Only in the "Old Testament"? (*rs* p. 285 ¶1-3)
No. 4: * What We Can Learn From Bible Examples of Sins of Omission

Jan. 12 Bible reading: Genesis 6-10 **Song 215**
Speech Quality: Practical Application of Material (*be* p. 158 ¶2-4)
No. 1: Cleanliness—What Does It Really Mean? (*w02* 2/1 pp. 4-7)
No. 2: Genesis 8:1-17
No. 3: Why Lying Is Wrong
No. 4: Why the "Paradise" Referred to at Luke 23:43 Cannot Be a Part of Hades or of Heaven (*rs* p. 286 ¶1–p. 287 ¶1)

Jan. 19 Bible reading: Genesis 11-16 **Song 218**
Speech Quality: Helping Others to Get the Point (*be* p. 159 ¶1-4)
No. 1: Godly Principles Can Benefit You (*w02* 2/15 pp. 4-7)
No. 2: Genesis 13:1-18
No. 3: What Points to the Paradise Referred to at Luke 23:43 as Being Earthly? (*rs* p. 287 ¶2–p. 288 ¶2)
No. 4: Why Jehovah's Witnesses Share Their Hope With Others

Jan. 26 Bible reading: Genesis 17-20 **Song 106**
Speech Quality: Choice of Words (*be* p. 160 ¶1-3)
No. 1: Empathy—Key to Kindness and Compassion (*w02* 4/15 pp. 24-7)
No. 2: *w02* 1/1 pp. 10-11 ¶9-11
No. 3: What Jesus' Words Recorded at Luke 13:24 Mean
No. 4: How Can Any of Us Acquire True Knowledge and Wisdom? (*rs* p. 288 ¶3–p. 289 ¶2)

Feb. 2 Bible reading: Genesis 21-24 **Song 64**
Speech Quality: Language Easily Understood (*be* p. 161 ¶1-4)
No. 1: Preparing Student Assignments for the School (*be* p. 43 ¶1–p. 44 ¶3)
No. 2: Genesis 21:1-21
No. 3: What Is the Origin of Human Philosophies? (*rs* p. 289 ¶3–p. 290 ¶2)
No. 4: * Why an Engagement Should Be Taken Seriously

Feb. 9 Bible reading: Genesis 25-28 **Song 9**
Speech Quality: Variety and Accuracy in Expression (*be* p. 161 ¶5–p. 162 ¶4)
No. 1: Working With a Subject and a Setting (*be* p. 44 ¶4–p. 46 ¶2)
No. 2: Genesis 28:1-15
No. 3: How to Find Inner Peace in This Troubled World
No. 4: Why Is It an Evidence of Clear Thinking to Study the Teachings of Jesus Christ Instead of Human Philosophy? (*rs* p. 290 ¶3–p. 291 ¶3)

Feb. 16 Bible reading: Genesis 29-31 **Song 160**
Speech Quality: Words That Convey Vigor, Feeling, and Color (*be* p. 163 ¶1–p. 164 ¶2)
No. 1: Integrity Leads the Upright Ones (*w02* 5/15 pp. 24-7)
No. 2: *w02* 2/1 pp. 15-16 ¶6-10
No. 3: Whose Prayers Is God Willing to Hear? (*rs* p. 292 ¶1–p. 293 ¶2)
No. 4: Why Virtue Is an Important Quality for Christians

Feb. 23 Bible reading: Genesis 32-35 **Song 1**
Speech Quality: Speech Conforming to the Rules of Grammar (*be* p. 164 ¶3–p. 165 ¶1)
Oral Review

Mar. 1 Bible reading: Genesis 36-39 **Song 49**
Speech Quality: Use of an Outline (*be* p. 166 ¶1–p. 167 ¶2)
No. 1: Preparing Talks for the Congregation (*be* p. 47 ¶1–p. 49 ¶1)
No. 2: Genesis 37:12-28
No. 3: Why Must Our Faith Be Linked With Endurance?
No. 4: * What Could Make a Person's Prayers Unacceptable to God? (*rs* p. 293 ¶3–p. 294 ¶3)

Mar. 8 Bible reading: Genesis 40-42 **Song 205**
Speech Quality: Organizing Your Thoughts (*be* p. 167 ¶3–p. 168 ¶2)
No. 1: Preparing Service Meeting Parts and Other Talks (*be* p. 49 ¶2–p. 51 ¶2)
No. 2: Genesis 42:1-20
No. 3: How to Cultivate a Close Relationship With Jehovah
No. 4: * What Are Proper Matters About Which to Pray? (*rs* p. 294 ¶4–p. 295 ¶3)

Mar. 15 Bible reading: Genesis 43-46 **Song 67**
Speech Quality: Keeping Your Talk Outline Simple (*be* p. 168 ¶3–p. 169 ¶5)
No. 1: Earnest Effort—When Is It Blessed by Jehovah? (*w02* 8/1 pp. 29-31)
No. 2: Genesis 43:1-18
No. 3: # If Someone Says, 'Pray With Me First, Then Give Me Your Message' (*rs* p. 295 ¶4-5)
No. 4: How Can We Make Friends by Means of Unrighteous Riches?

Mar. 22 Bible reading: Genesis 47-50 **Song 187**
Speech Quality: Logical Development of Material (*be* p. 170 ¶1–p. 171 ¶2)
No. 1: Why Did Jehovah Accept Abel's Sacrifice and Not Cain's? (*w02* 8/1 p. 28)
No. 2: Genesis 47:1-17
No. 3: What Are Some of the Outstanding Bible Prophecies That Are Yet to Be Fulfilled? (*rs* p. 296 ¶2–p. 297 ¶3)
No. 4: Why Fear of Jehovah Is the Beginning of Wisdom

Mar. 29 Bible reading: Exodus 1-6 **Song 52**
Speech Quality: Presenting Information in a Logical Way (*be* p. 171 ¶3–p. 172 ¶5)
No. 1: How Can Thinking Ability Safeguard You? (*w02* 8/15 pp. 21-4)
No. 2: *w02* 2/15 pp. 19-20 ¶7-11
No. 3: How Jehovah Views Pride
No. 4: Why Should Christians Be Keenly Interested in the Bible's Predictions? (*rs* p. 297 ¶4-8)

Apr. 5 Bible reading: Exodus 7-10 **Song 61**
Speech Quality: Using Only Relevant Material (*be* p. 173 ¶1-4)
No. 1: Preparing Discourses for the Public (*be* p. 52 ¶1–p. 54 ¶1)
No. 2: Exodus 8:1-19
No. 3: # If Someone Says, 'You Put Too Much Emphasis on Prophecy' (*rs* p. 298 ¶1-2)
No. 4: Why Hope Is Like "an Anchor for the Soul"

Apr. 12 Bible reading: Exodus 11-14 **Song 87**
Speech Quality: Extemporaneous Delivery (*be* p. 174 ¶1–p. 175 ¶4)
No. 1: The Speaker's Decisions (*be* p. 54 ¶2-4; p. 55, box)
No. 2: Exodus 12:1-16
No. 3: Why Should We Welcome Jehovah's Discipline?
No. 4: On What Is the Teaching of Purgatory Based? (*rs* p. 299 ¶1-6)

Apr. 19 Bible reading: Exodus 15-18 **Song 171**
Speech Quality: Avoiding the Pitfalls of Extemporaneous Delivery (*be* p. 175 ¶5–p. 177 ¶1)
No. 1: How Should We View Trials? (*w02* 9/1 pp. 29-31)
No. 2: *w02* 3/1 pp. 15-16 ¶8-11
No. 3: Is Further Punishment for Sin Exacted After One's Death? (*rs* p. 300 ¶2-6)
No. 4: * Why Marriage Should Be a Lifelong Union

Apr. 26 Bible reading: Exodus 19-22 **Song 59**
Speech Quality: When Others Demand an Explanation (*be* p. 177 ¶2–p. 178 ¶2)
Oral Review

May 3 Bible reading: Exodus 23-26 **Song 13**

Speech Quality: Conversational Manner (*be* pp. 179-80)

No. 1: Develop Ability as a Teacher (*be* p. 56 ¶1–p. 57 ¶2)

No. 2: Exodus 23:1-17

No. 3: How Can Jehovah Help a Person to Overcome Bad Habits?

No. 4: From Where Did the Various Races Come? (*rs* p. 301 ¶1-4)

May 10 Bible reading: Exodus 27-29 **Song 28**

Speech Quality: Voice Quality (*be* p. 181 ¶1-4)

No. 1: "Make a Distinction" (*be* p. 57 ¶3–p. 58 ¶2)

No. 2: Exodus 28:29-43

No. 3: Where Did Cain Get His Wife if There Was Just One Family? (*rs* p. 301 ¶5–p. 302 ¶1)

No. 4: Why Racial Prejudice Is Wrong

May 17 Bible reading: Exodus 30-33 **Song 93**

Speech Quality: Properly Controlling Your Air Supply (*be* p. 181 ¶5–p. 184 ¶1; p. 182, box)

No. 1: Encourage Listeners to Think (*be* p. 58 ¶3–p. 59 ¶3)

No. 2: Exodus 30:1-21

No. 3: Why Be Mild-Tempered?

No. 4: What Explains the Various Racial Characteristics? (*rs* p. 302 ¶2–p. 303 ¶2)

May 24 Bible reading: Exodus 34-37 **Song 86**

Speech Quality: Relaxing Tense Muscles (*be* p. 184 ¶2–p. 185 ¶3; p. 184, box)

No. 1: Provide Application and Set a Good Example (*be* p. 60 ¶1–p. 61 ¶3)

No. 2: Exodus 36:1-18

No. 3: Are All Humans Children of God? (*rs* p. 303 ¶3–p. 304 ¶4)

No. 4: Why Be Faithful in Little Things?

May 31 Bible reading: Exodus 38-40 **Song 202**

Speech Quality: Interest Shown in the Other Person (*be* p. 186 ¶1-4)

No. 1: How to Improve Conversation Skills (*be* p. 62 ¶1–p. 64 ¶1)

No. 2: *w*02 5/1 pp. 19-20 ¶3-6

No. 3: How Can Understanding 1 John 3:19, 20 Comfort a Person?

No. 4: Will People of All Races Ever Truly Be United as Brothers and Sisters? (*rs* p. 304 ¶5–p. 305 ¶3)

June 7 Bible reading: Leviticus 1-5 **Song 123**

Speech Quality: Listening Attentively (*be* p. 187 ¶1-5)

No. 1: How to Continue a Conversation (*be* p. 64 ¶2–p. 65 ¶4)

No. 2: Leviticus 3:1-17

No. 3: How Was the Death of Jesus Christ Different From That of Others Who Have Become Martyrs? (*rs* p. 306 ¶1-4)

No. 4: What Is Wrong With Dabbling in the Occult?

June 14 Bible reading: Leviticus 6-9 **Song 121**

Speech Quality: Helping Others to Progress (*be* p. 187 ¶6–p. 188 ¶3)

No. 1: Discerning the Questioner's Viewpoint (*be* p. 66 ¶1–p. 68 ¶1)

No. 2: Leviticus 7:1-19

No. 3: How Can We Learn to Hate What Is Bad?

No. 4: Why Was It Necessary for the Ransom to Be Provided in the Manner That It Was? (*rs* p. 306 ¶6–p. 307 ¶2)

June 21 Bible reading: Leviticus 10-13 **Song 183**

Speech Quality: Giving Practical Assistance (*be* p. 188 ¶4–p. 189 ¶4)

No. 1: Know How You Ought to Answer (*be* p. 68 ¶2–p. 70 ¶3)

No. 2: Leviticus 11:1-25

No. 3: Why Did God Not Simply Decree That All Who Would Obey Could Live Forever? (*rs* p. 307 ¶3–p. 308 ¶1)

No. 4: How Jehovah Views Cheating

June 28 Bible reading: Leviticus 14-16 **Song 216**

Speech Quality: Respect Shown to Others (*be* p. 190 ¶1-4)

Oral Review

July 5 Bible reading: Leviticus 17-20 **Song 54**

Speech Quality: Respectful Acknowledgment (*be* p. 191 ¶1–p. 192 ¶1)

No. 1: Communicating Through Letters (*be* pp. 71-3)

No. 2: Leviticus 17:1-16

No. 3: Trust Jehovah's Organization

No. 4: To Whom First Was the Merit of Jesus' Sacrifice Applied, and With What Objective? (*rs* p. 308 ¶2-3)

July 12 Bible reading: Leviticus 21-24 **Song 138**

Speech Quality: Respectful Delivery (*be* p. 192 ¶2–p. 193 ¶2)

No. 1: Be Progressive—Make Advancement (*be* p. 74 ¶1–p. 75 ¶3)

No. 2: Leviticus 22:1-16

No. 3: Who Else in Our Day Are Experiencing Benefits From Jesus' Sacrifice? (*rs* p. 309 ¶1-3)

No. 4: Was Jehovah the Tribal God of the Jews?

July 19 Bible reading: Leviticus 25-27 **Song 7**

Speech Quality: Expressed With Conviction (*be* p. 194 ¶1–p. 195 ¶2)

No. 1: Use Your Gift (*be* p. 75 ¶4–p. 77 ¶2)

No. 2: Leviticus 25:1-19

No. 3: How Terrorism Will End

No. 4: What Future Blessings Will Be Enjoyed as a Result of the Ransom? (*rs* p. 310 ¶1-4)

July 26 Bible reading: Numbers 1-3 **Song 30**

Speech Quality: How Conviction Is Manifested (*be* p. 195 ¶3–p. 196 ¶4)

No. 1: Should Christians Be Jealous? (*w*02 10/15 pp. 28-31)

No. 2: *w*02 6/15 pp. 18-19 ¶6-9

No. 3: What Is Required of Us in Order to Benefit From Jesus' Sacrifice? (*rs* p. 310 ¶5–p. 311 ¶3)

No. 4: Is It Wrong to Mourn the Death of a Loved One?

Aug. 2 Bible reading: Numbers 4-6 **Song 128**

Speech Quality: Tactful yet Firm (*be* p. 197 ¶1-3)

No. 1: Making Our Days Count Before Jehovah (*w*02 11/15 pp. 20-3)

No. 2: Numbers 6:1-17

No. 3: How Can the Bible Help People to Stop Hating One Another?

No. 4: What Effect Should the Ransom Have on How We Use Our Lives? (*rs* p. 311 ¶4-6)

Aug. 9 Bible reading: Numbers 7-9 **Song 35**

Speech Quality: Tactful When Witnessing (*be* p. 197 ¶4–p. 198 ¶5)

No. 1: Is a Classless Society Really Possible? (*w*02 1/1 pp. 4-7)

No. 2: Numbers 8:1-19

No. 3: When the Apostle Paul Said That Christians Would Be "Caught Up" to Be With the Lord, What Subject Was Being Discussed? (*rs* p. 312 ¶1-2)

No. 4: Who Is the Antichrist?

Aug. 16 Bible reading: Numbers 10-13 **Song 203**

Speech Quality: The Right Words at the Right Time (*be* p. 199 ¶1-4)

No. 1: Trust in Jehovah—The God Who Is Real (*w*02 1/15 pp. 5-7)

No. 2: Numbers 12:1-16

No. 3: Is God's Vengeance Consistent With His Love?

No. 4: Will Christ Appear Visibly on a Cloud and Then Take Away Faithful Christians Into the Heavens While the World Looks On? (*rs* p. 313 ¶1-3)

Aug. 23 Bible reading: Numbers 14-16 **Song 207**

Speech Quality: Using Tact With Family and Others (*be* p. 200 ¶1-4)

No. 1: Brothers Who Developed Different Attitudes (*w*02 1/15 pp. 21-3)

No. 2: *w*02 7/15 pp. 23-4 ¶15-19

No. 3: Is It Possible for Christians to Be Taken to Heaven With Their Physical Bodies? (*rs* p. 314 ¶1-2)

No. 4: * Why Violent Video Games Are Not for Christians

Aug. 30 Bible reading: Numbers 17-21 Song 150

Speech Quality: Upbuilding and Positive (*be* p. 202 ¶1–p. 203 ¶2)

Oral Review

Sept. 6 Bible reading: Numbers 22-25 Song 22

Speech Quality: Keeping the Tone Positive (*be* p. 203 ¶3–p. 204 ¶1)

No. 1: Why Did That Ancient World Perish? (*w*02 3/1 pp. 5-7)

No. 2: Numbers 22:1-19

No. 3: Will Faithful Christians Be Taken to Heaven Secretly Without Dying? (*rs* p. 314 ¶3–p. 315 ¶2)

No. 4: *Why Christian Parents Should Read to Their Children

Sept. 13 Bible reading: Numbers 26-29 Song 71

Speech Quality: When Conversing With Fellow Believers (*be* p. 204 ¶2–p. 205 ¶4)

No. 1: How Disabilities Will End (*w*02 5/1 pp. 4-7)

No. 2: Numbers 29:1-19

No. 3: What Protection Will There Be for True Christians During the Great Tribulation? (*rs* p. 315 ¶3–p. 316 ¶3)

No. 4: How Have God's Promises Become Yes by Means of Jesus Christ?

Sept. 20 Bible reading: Numbers 30-32 Song 51

Speech Quality: Repetition for Emphasis (*be* p. 206 ¶1-4)

No. 1: Sow Righteousness, Reap God's Loving-Kindness (*w*02 7/15 pp. 28-31)

No. 2: Numbers 30:1-16

No. 3: Why Are Some Christians Taken to Heaven to Be With Christ? (*rs* p. 316 ¶5-8)

No. 4: *Why Flee From Pornography

Sept. 27 Bible reading: Numbers 33-36 Song 100

Speech Quality: Repetition in the Field Ministry and in Talks (*be* p. 207 ¶1–p. 208 ¶4)

No. 1: How Can True Saints Help You? (*w*02 9/15 pp. 4-7)

No. 2: *w*02 8/1 pp. 18-19 ¶15-19

No. 3: #'Do You Believe in the Rapture?' (*rs* p. 316 ¶9–p. 317 ¶2)

No. 4: Why Avoid Thrill Seeking

Oct. 4 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 1-3 Song 191

Speech Quality: Theme Developed (*be* p. 209 ¶1-3)

No. 1: Comfort in the Accurate Knowledge of God (*w*02 10/1 pp. 5-7)

No. 2: Deuteronomy 1:1-18

No. 3: What It Means to Make the Truth Your Own

No. 4: Does a Strange Feeling of Being Familiar With Entirely New Acquaintances and Places Prove Reincarnation to Be a Fact? (*rs* p. 317 ¶3–p. 319 ¶1)

Oct. 11 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 4-6 Song 181

Speech Quality: Using an Appropriate Theme (*be* p. 210 ¶1–p. 211 ¶1; p. 211, box)

No. 1: Counting Back From 537 B.C.E. to 997 B.C.E. (*si* p. 285 ¶5-7)

No. 2: Deuteronomy 4:1-14

No. 3: Why Does the Account at John 9:1, 2 Not Prove Reincarnation? (*rs* p. 319 ¶2–p. 320 ¶2)

No. 4: What Is Involved in 'Minding the Spirit'?

Oct. 18 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 7-10 Song 78

Speech Quality: Main Points Made to Stand Out (*be* p. 212 ¶1–p. 213 ¶1)

No. 1: Counting Back From 997 B.C.E. to 2370 B.C.E. (*si* pp. 285-6 ¶8-11)

No. 2: *w*02 8/15 pp. 15-16 ¶3-6

No. 3: How Much of a Difference Is There Between Reincarnation and the Hope Held Out in the Bible? (*rs* p. 320 ¶3-4)

No. 4: *How Jehovah Views Apostates

Oct. 25 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 11-13 Song 57

Speech Quality: Not Too Many Main Points (*be* p. 213 ¶2–p. 214 ¶5)

Oral Review

Nov. 1 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 14-18 Song 26

Speech Quality: Interest-Arousing Introduction (*be* p. 215 ¶1–p. 216 ¶5)

No. 1: Counting Back From 2370 B.C.E. to 4026 B.C.E. (*si* pp. 286-7 ¶12-15)

No. 2: Deuteronomy 14:1-23

No. 3: #If Someone Says, 'I Believe in Reincarnation' (*rs* p. 321 ¶1-3)

No. 4: Why Christians Should Keep Their Life Simple

Nov. 8 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 19-22 Song 182

Speech Quality: Getting People's Attention in the Field Service (*be* p. 217 ¶1-4)

No. 1: Jesus' Earthly Residence (*si* p. 291 ¶16-17)

No. 2: Deuteronomy 21:1-17

No. 3: Why Are There So Many Religions? (*rs* p. 322 ¶1–p. 323 ¶2)

No. 4: How Can Bible Examples Help Us to Cope With Discouragement?

Nov. 15 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 23-27 Song 162

Speech Quality: Identifying Your Subject in the Introduction (*be* p. 217 ¶5–p. 219 ¶3)

No. 1: Time Features of Jesus' Ministry (*si* p. 291 ¶18-19)

No. 2: Deuteronomy 24:1-16

No. 3: How to Identify Those Who Have God's Backing

No. 4: Is It True That There Is Good in All Religions? (*rs* p. 323 ¶3-5)

Nov. 22 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 28-31 Song 32

Speech Quality: Effective Conclusions (*be* p. 220 ¶1-3)

No. 1: Counting the Years in Apostolic Times (*si* pp. 291-2 ¶20-3)

No. 2: Deuteronomy 29:1-18

No. 3: Is It Proper to Leave the Religion of One's Parents? (*rs* p. 324 ¶1-3)

No. 4: Why Christians Should Be Modest

Nov. 29 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 32-34 Song 41

Speech Quality: Points to Keep in Mind (*be* p. 220 ¶4–p. 221 ¶4)

No. 1: Paul's Second Missionary Journey (*si* pp. 292-3 ¶24-5)

No. 2: *w*02 10/15 p. 11 ¶10-13

No. 3: Ways We Can Sanctify God's Name

No. 4: What Is the Bible's Viewpoint as to Interfaith? (*rs* p. 325 ¶1–p. 326 ¶1)

Dec. 6 Bible reading: Joshua 1-5 Song 40

Speech Quality: In the Field Ministry (*be* p. 221 ¶5–p. 222 ¶6)

No. 1: Paul's Third Missionary Tour and the Closing Years, 56-100 C.E. (*si* p. 293 ¶26-30)

No. 2: Joshua 4:1-14

No. 3: Is Belonging to an Organized Religion Necessary? (*rs* p. 326 ¶2–p. 327 ¶2)

No. 4: Is Christmas a Christian Celebration?

Dec. 13 Bible reading: Joshua 6-8 Song 213

Speech Quality: Accuracy of Statement (*be* p. 223 ¶1-5)

No. 1: Apologizing—A Key to Making Peace (*w*02 11/1 pp. 4-7)

No. 2: Joshua 6:10-23

No. 3: Why Continue to Preach From House to House?

No. 4: Is Loving One's Fellowman What Really Counts? (*rs* p. 327 ¶4)

Dec. 20 Bible reading: Joshua 9-11 Song 135

Speech Quality: "Holding Firmly to the Faithful Word" (*be* p. 224 ¶1-4)

No. 1: Strengthen Your Hands (*w*02 12/1 pp. 30-1)

No. 2: *w*02 11/15 pp. 18-19 ¶19-23

No. 3: Is Having a Personal Relationship With God the Really Important Thing? (*rs* p. 327 ¶5–p. 328 ¶1)

No. 4: *What It Means to Be Peaceable

Dec. 27 Bible reading: Joshua 12-15 Song 210

Speech Quality: Checking the Accuracy of Information (*be* p. 225 ¶1-3)

Oral Review

*Assign to brothers only.

#As time permits, consider responses to assertions, objections, and so forth, that will best meet needs in the local territory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* If people already have these, *Worship the Only True God* or an older publication may be offered. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any book published prior to 1988 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Mankind's Search for God.*

■ The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2004" and should be kept for reference throughout 2004.

■ If the meeting times for your congregation will change January 1, the congregation secretary should notify the branch office of the changes by submitting the Congregation Meeting Information and Handbill Request form (S-5). If needed, a new supply of handbills can be ordered on the same form. Handbills should be requested at least eight weeks before you wish to receive them.

■ The video *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* will be considered at the Service Meeting in December. English and Spanish copies are available for request through the congregation.

■ Beginning November 1, 2003, requests for the following music and drama programs will be available on compact disc only and will no longer be filled in audiocassette format: *Kingdom Melodies,* Volumes 1-9; *Sing Praises to Jehovah* (single album with eight cassettes); and *Respect Jehovah's Authority.* As additional music and drama audiocassette programs become available on compact disc, congregations will be informed when to discontinue requesting audiocassettes.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 27, 2003. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of September 1 through October 27, 2003. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What is meant by the counsel given at 1 Timothy 2:9 to adorn oneself in "well-arranged dress," and how might this affect our presentations from the platform or in the field ministry? [*be* p. 132 pars. 4-5]
2. How should the Bible principles set out at 1 John 2:15-17, Ephesians 2:2, and Romans 15:3 influence our personal appearance? [*be* p. 133 pars. 2-4]
3. Why is poise important, and how can we acquire poise when speaking from the platform or sharing in the ministry? [*be* p. 135 box; p. 136 par. 5, box]
4. As "the faithful and true witness," how did Jesus set the example for us in using the Bible in the ministry? (Rev. 3:14) [*be* p. 143 pars. 2-3]
5. How can we become more proficient in the use of the Bible? (Titus 1:9) [*be* p. 144 par. 1, box]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What does study involve, and what are some of the benefits of a regular study of God's Word? [*be* p. 27 par. 3; p. 32 par. 4]
7. In harmony with James 1:5, 6, what is essential when we are faced with an important decision? [*w*01 9/1 p. 28 par. 4]
8. What are pivotal dates, and why are they of great value? [*si* p. 282 par. 27]
9. In what way is "the one bringing forth a bad report" stupid? (Prov. 10:18) [*w*01 9/15 p. 25 par. 3]
10. How will humans come to appreciate Jehovah's view of time more fully in the new world? [*si* p. 283 par. 32]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. *True or False:* At 1 Corinthians 2:9, the apostle Paul is referring to things that Jehovah has prepared for his faithful people as an inheritance. Explain. [*ip-2* p. 366 box]
12. To what temptations do the words recorded at 1 Corinthians 10:13 apply, and how does Jehovah "make the way out"? [*w*91 10/1 pp. 10-11 pars. 11-14]
13. How does Jesus' example of generosity affect Christians? (2 Cor. 8:9) [*w*92 1/15 p. 16 par. 10]
14. How was the Law a "tutor leading to Christ"? (Gal. 3:24) [*w*02 6/1 p. 15 par. 11]
15. What are "the elementary things of the world" that we must be on guard against so as not to be led astray? (Col. 2:8)

"Serve Jehovah With Rejoicing"

[1] "Always rejoice in the Lord," wrote the apostle Paul. "Once more I will say, Rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4) The privilege of sharing the good news and helping sheeplike people to worship Jehovah is a source of great joy. (Luke 10:17; Acts 15:3; 1 Thess. 2:19) However, if we find that at times joy is lacking in our ministry, what can we do?

[2] **A God-Ordained Work:** Remember that our preaching commission comes from Jehovah. Yes, how privileged we are to be "God's fellow workers" in proclaiming the Kingdom message and making disciples! (1 Cor. 3:9) Christ Jesus is with us in this never-to-be-repeated work. (Matt. 28:18-20) The angels are also actively involved and work with us in the great spiritual harvest now taking place. (Acts 8:26; Rev. 14:6) The Scriptures, along with the experiences of God's people, give unmistakable evidence that Jehovah is backing this work. When we preach, therefore, we go forth "as sent from God, under God's view, in company with Christ." (2 Cor. 2:17) What a powerful reason for joy!

[3] Prayer is essential to maintaining our joy in God's service. (Gal. 5:22) Since we can do God's work only in his strength, we need to beseech him for his spirit, which he gives generously to those asking him. (Luke 11:13; 2 Cor. 4:1, 7; Eph. 6:18-20) Praying about our ministry will help us to maintain the right perspective when we encounter negative responses. It will enable us to continue preaching boldly and cheerfully.—Acts 4:29-31; 5:40-42; 13:50-52.

[4] **Prepare Well:** A practical way to increase our joy when we share in the ministry is that we prepare well. (1 Pet. 3:15) Such preparation need not entail a lot of time. It takes just a few minutes to review the suggested presentations for the current magazines or a presentation that is suitable for the literature you plan to offer. For an appropriate introduction, you can consult the *Reasoning* book or past issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Some Kingdom publishers find it helpful to jot down a brief presentation on an index card. Periodically, they glance at the card to refresh their memory. This helps them to overcome nervousness and gives them confidence to preach with boldness.

[5] Joy brings with it many benefits. A joyful disposition enhances the appeal of our message. Joy strengthens us to endure. (Neh. 8:10; Heb. 12:2) Above all, our joyful service glorifies Jehovah. Therefore, let us "serve Jehovah with rejoicing."—Ps. 100:2.

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1. What can be a source of great joy for servants of Jehovah?
2. How can keeping in focus the source of our commission contribute to our joy?
3. What role does prayer play in maintaining our joy in God's service?
4. How does good preparation help to increase our joy in preaching, and what are some practical ways that we can prepare?
5. How does joy benefit us and others?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Oct. 15**

"Many decisions we face have far-reaching effects on our life. What can help us to avoid making unwise decisions? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 3:6.] This issue of *The Watchtower* presents five Bible-based guidelines that can assist us in making wise decisions."

Awake! Oct. 22

"Have you noticed that more and more, we hear about germs that are resistant to medical treatment? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines the reasons for this and suggests what we can do to protect ourselves. It also discusses the Bible's promise of a world where no one will be sick." Read Isaiah 33:24.

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Nov. 1**

"All of us have had our trust betrayed at some time. Have you ever asked yourself, 'Is there anyone I can trust?' [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 3:5.] This magazine explains why we can put our full trust in God. It also considers how we can determine which people are worthy of our trust."

Awake! Nov. 8

"Products made from petroleum touch virtually every aspect of our lives. Have you ever wondered what life would be like without them? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses how oil came to play such a prominent role in modern society. It also explains why we need not fear that one day the oil will run out."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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"Prove Yourselves Ready"

1 In his great prophecy regarding the conclusion of this system of things, Jesus cautioned against becoming absorbed by the mundane concerns of life. (Matt. 24:36-39; Luke 21:34, 35) Since the outbreak of the great tribulation can occur at any time, it is imperative that we heed Jesus' admonition: "Prove yourselves ready, because at an hour that you do not think to be it, the Son of man is coming." (Matt. 24:44) What can assist us in this regard?

2 **Combating Anxieties and Distractions:** One of the spiritual pitfalls we must guard against is "anxieties over livelihood." (Luke 21:34, ftn.) In some lands, poverty, unemployment, and the high cost of living make it difficult to obtain the necessities of life. In other lands, acquiring material possessions is commonplace. If concern over material things begins to dominate our thinking, we are in danger of losing our focus on Kingdom realities. (Matt. 6:19-24, 31-33) Christian meetings help us to maintain that focus. Do you make it your aim to attend every meeting?—Heb. 10:24, 25.

3 The world today is full of distractions that can easily rob us of precious time. Computer use can become a snare if one spends inordinate amounts of time browsing the Internet, reading and sending E-mail, or playing computer games. Countless hours can be lost to television, movies, hobbies, secular reading, and sports, leaving us with little time or energy for spiritual pursuits. While recreation and relaxation can provide refreshment temporarily, personal and family Bible study yield everlasting benefits. (1 Tim. 4:7, 8) Do you buy out time to meditate on God's Word each day?—Eph. 5:15-17.

4 How grateful we can be that Jehovah's organization has arranged a program of spiritual instruction to help us "succeed in escaping all [the] things that are destined to occur, and in standing before the Son of man"! (Luke 21:36) May we take full advantage of these provisions and 'prove ourselves ready' so that our faith may be "a cause for praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."—1 Pet. 1:7.

Commendation Refreshes

1 "Haven't I been a good girl today?" the little girl sobbed at bedtime. That question took her mother aback. Despite having noticed how hard her little girl was trying to behave that day, she had neglected to express even one word of appreciation. That little girl's tears should serve as a reminder that all of us—young and old—need commendation. Do we refresh those around us by expressing appreciation for the good that they do?—Prov. 25:11.

2 Fellow Christians give us many good reasons to commend them. Elders, ministerial servants, and pioneers work hard to fulfill their responsibilities. (1 Tim. 4:10; 5:17) God-fearing parents do their utmost to raise their children in Jehovah's ways. (Eph. 6:4) Christian youths put up a hard fight to resist "the spirit of the world." (1 Cor. 2:12; Eph. 2:1-3) Others faithfully serve Jehovah despite advancing age, health problems, or other trials. (2 Cor. 12:7) All such ones deserve commendation. Do we acknowledge their praiseworthy efforts?

3 **Personal and Specific:** We all truly appreciate hearing commendation from the platform. However, commendation is even more refreshing when it is directed to us personally. For example, in chapter 16 of his letter to the Romans, Paul made specific expressions of appreciation regarding Phoebe, Prisca and Aquila, Tryphaena and Tryphosa, and Persis, among others. (Rom. 16:1-4, 12) How refreshing his words must have been to those faithful ones! Such praise reassures our brothers and sisters that they are needed and serves to draw us closer together. Have you given specific personal commendation recently?—Eph. 4:29.

4 **From the Heart:** To be truly refreshing, commendation must be sincere. People can tell whether we are speaking from the heart or we are merely 'flattering with the tongue.' (Prov. 28:23) As we train ourselves to notice the good in others, our heart will be moved to commend. May we be generous in giving genuine commendation, knowing that "a word at its right time is O how good!"—Prov. 15:23.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting November 10

Song 212

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Have two realistic demonstrations of how to use the suggestions on page 4 to present the November 15 *Watchtower* and the November 22 *Awake!* in your territory. In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. Have one of the demonstrations include an explanation of how our worldwide work is financed.—See *The Watchtower,* p. 2, or *Awake!* p. 5.

15 min: "Prove Yourselves Ready." * Invite the audience to comment on what helps them to keep the anxieties and distractions of the present system of things from consuming time that would be better spent in spiritual pursuits.

20 min: How Do You Choose Your Associates? Audience discussion based on *Worship God* book, pages 47-9. Using the questions and cited scriptures in paragraph 13, invite audience to comment on Bible principles that should guide us in choosing our associates.

Song 127 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 17

Song 96

12 min: Local announcements. Outline special field service arrangements for November 27. Review "Use the *Worship God* Book to Conduct Bible Studies." Interview one or two publishers who have had interesting field service experiences using the current literature offer.

15 min: Cultivate a Giving Spirit. A talk by an elder, based on the November 1, 2003, *Watchtower,* pages 26-30.

18 min: "Commendation Refreshes."* Include comments on the *Family Happiness* book, pages 49-50, paragraph 21. Invite brief comments by individuals who were encouraged by words of commendation from others.

Song 58 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 24

Song 213

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Have two separate demonstrations of how to use the suggestions on page 4 to present the December 1 *Watchtower* and the December 8 *Awake!* A different scripture from the one suggested on page 4 may be used. In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In one of the presentations, demonstrate offering the magazines informally on public transportation or in some other appropriate local setting.

10 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

23 min: "Cultivating Intimacy With Jehovah." * Use the questions that are provided. Draw comments from the audience on how the scriptures apply. Arrange in advance for one or two to offer comments on what has helped them to improve the quality of their personal Bible study.

Song 202 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 1

Song 138

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for November. Mention literature offer for December. Briefly review one or two suggested presentations. Explain how publishers can use the *Watch Tower Publications Index* to find additional presentations.—See the September 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 2.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Adequately Qualified to Teach Others. Audience discussion based on the June 1, 2000, *Watchtower,* pages 16-17, paragraphs 9-13. Being able to teach effectively is a primary goal in our ministry. Our success in helping sheeplike ones depends on our ability to convey the Kingdom message in a way that informs and motivates them. Discuss the following questions: (1) What is the difference between preaching and teaching? (*it*-2 p. 672 par. 2) (2) Why are some hesitant about trying to conduct a Bible study? (3) How can we improve our teaching ability? (4) How can we make sure our student gets the sense of what he is learning? (5) What goal should we try to help the student to achieve?

Song 70 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

Use the *Worship God* Book to Conduct Bible Studies

The book *Worship the Only True God* is designed to help newer ones advance in the truth and deepen their appreciation for Jehovah and his organization. It can be used with Bible students as the second study book. The June 2000 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 4, explained: "If it is evident that a person is making progress, although slowly, and that he is developing appreciation for what he is learning, then continue the Bible study in a second book after the *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book are completed. . . . In all cases, the *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book would be studied first. The Bible study, return visits, and time spent to continue the study should be counted and reported, even if the student gets baptized before completing the second book."

Who else can benefit from a Bible study in the *Worship God* book? That same article continues: "If you know of some who studied [the *Require* brochure and] the *Knowledge* book in the past but never progressed to dedication and baptism, you may want to take the initiative to see if they would like to resume their Bible study." Let us make good use of the *Worship God* book to help others join us in serving the only true God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* If people already have these, *Worship the Only True God* or an older publication may be offered. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any book published prior to 1988 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Mankind's Search for God.* **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* or *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* as an alternative offer.
- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.
- Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 2003 with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed to all congregations each month. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.
- The secretary of each congregation holding title to property should review paragraphs 42-4 in the form entitled "Information Regarding Ownership of Kingdom Halls" (T-36). Even after real-estate tax exemption has been obtained, an annual filing is required in some states. Check carefully with your local tax assessor's office to confirm whether any action is required. All taxes and assessments are to be paid within the time provided. If any tax or assessment is questioned, promptly follow through on the matter so that either it is removed or a proper challenge is filed within the applicable time limit.
- Donations made by check and put in the local Kingdom Hall contribution boxes for the worldwide work and the Kingdom Hall Fund should be made payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations made by check at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Office of the Secretary and Treasurer, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**171**	**102.7**	**87.7**	**46.2**	**4.8**
Pios.	**87,385**	**56.7**	**37.0**	**18.5**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**21,817**	**49.9**	**35.7**	**12.7**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**920,279**	**9.4**	**8.5**	**3.6**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,029,652**		Baptized:	**1,932**	

August proved to be a month of remarkable activity. The total number of publishers recorded was 1,029,652. This is the second-highest number of Kingdom proclaimers ever recorded in the United States!

QUESTION BOX

- Should a family Bible study be reported to the congregation?

If a Christian parent conducts a family Bible study and *unbaptized* children are involved, the parent may report a maximum of one hour a week, one return visit a week, and one home Bible study a month. This is the case even if the study lasts for more than one hour, is conducted more than once a week, or is conducted with the children individually. —See the *Our Ministry* book, p. 104.

If all in the household are *baptized* Witnesses, then neither the time nor the study itself is reported as field service (unless a child is still studying the second book after baptism). This is because the congregation's field service report reflects primarily what is being accomplished in preaching the good news and teaching Bible truth to those who are not dedicated and baptized servants of Jehovah. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) However, this in no way diminishes the importance of holding such a study regularly.

It is the responsibility of Christian parents to study with their children. Those who need assistance in establishing or improving their family study may ask the elders for help. If circumstances make it advisable for another publisher to conduct a Bible study with an *unbaptized* son or daughter of a Christian family associated with the congregation, the presiding overseer or service overseer should be consulted. If such a study is approved, the one conducting it may report it just as he or she would any other Bible study.

Training children in Jehovah's ways involves far more time and effort than appears on a field service report. (Deut. 6:6-9; Prov. 22:6) Christian parents are to be commended for shouldering their weighty responsibility to bring up their children "in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah."—Eph. 6:4.

Cultivating Intimacy With Jehovah

[1] "I have been existing in the truth for the past 20 or so years by just going to meetings and engaging in the field ministry," admitted one Christian sister. However, she continues: "I have come to the conclusion that although these things are important, they alone cannot sustain me when things start getting difficult. . . . I realize now that I have to readjust my thinking and begin a meaningful study program so that I can really get to know Jehovah and come to love him and appreciate what his Son has given us."

[2] Building a close personal relationship with Jehovah takes effort. It requires more than merely following a routine of Christian activity. If we fail to commune regularly with Jehovah, in time he can become to us like a once-close friend with whom we have lost touch. (Rev. 2:4) Let us examine how personal Bible study and prayer can help us to cultivate intimacy with Jehovah. —Ps. 25:14.

[3] **Prayer and Meditation Vital:** Personal study that nourishes the heart involves more than underlining key points in the study material and looking up the cited scriptures. It calls for us to reflect on what the information reveals about Jehovah's ways, standards, and personality. (Ex. 33:13) Getting to understand spiritual matters touches our emotions and moves us to think about our own lives. (Ps. 119: 35, 111) Personal study should be done with the objective of drawing close to Jehovah. (Jas. 4:8) Serious study requires time as well as the proper setting, and regular study takes discipline. (Dan. 6:10) Even if your life is very busy, are you setting aside time each day to meditate on Jehovah's marvelous qualities?—Ps. 119:147, 148; 143:5.

[4] Heartfelt prayer is a vital part of meaningful personal study. For Bible truths to stir our hearts and move us to "render God sacred service with godly fear and awe," we need God's holy spirit. (Heb. 12:28) Therefore, we should open each study period by begging Jehovah for his spirit. (Matt. 5:3, ftn.) As we ponder the Scriptures and use the study aids provided by Jehovah's organization, we open our heart to Jehovah. (Ps. 62:8) Undertaking study in this manner is an act of worship by which we express our devotion to Jehovah and strengthen our attachment to him. —Jude 20, 21.

[5] As with all relationships, our relationship with Jehovah must be nurtured continually in order for it to keep growing throughout our lives. May we, therefore, buy out time each day to draw close to God, knowing that he, in turn, will draw close to us.—Ps. 1:2, 3; Eph. 5:15, 16.

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1. What did one sister come to realize about her spiritual routine?
2. Why is it important to cultivate intimacy with Jehovah?
3. What approach to personal study will help us to draw close to God?
4. How does prayer in connection with personal study help us to cultivate intimacy with Jehovah?
5. Why is it important for us to meditate on God's Word each day?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Nov. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"In the past, many believed that the earth would one day be a paradise. Today, some wonder if it will even survive. What is your view of earth's future? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says about this. [Read Psalm 37:11.] This magazine discusses further what the Bible foretells for the earth."

Awake! Nov. 22

"Some people worry that the damage inflicted upon the environment is beyond repair. Do you think the situation is hopeless? [Allow for response.] The Creator did not intend for the earth to become an uninhabitable trash dump. [Read Isaiah 45: 18.] This magazine explains how the earth will be saved."

THE WATCHTOWER Dec. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Some people today are losing faith in God. One reason for this is that they cannot find satisfying answers to troubling questions such as these. [Give an example from the box on page 6.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses one key to building genuine faith in God." Read Philippians 1:9.

Awake! Dec. 8

"Do you think mankind will ever enjoy conditions such as those described here? [Read Isaiah 14:7. Then allow for response.] This magazine contains practical information that can benefit us while we await the fulfillment of God's promises." Feature the article "How Can You Resist Wrong Desires?"

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 2003 For United States of America *km*-E Us 12/03 Vol. 46, No. 12

True Christian Unity—How?

[1] What could unite over six million people from 234 lands and some 380 language groups? Only the worship of Jehovah God. (Mic. 2:12; 4:1-3) Jehovah's Witnesses know from personal experience that true Christian unity is a reality today. As "one flock" under our "one shepherd," we are determined to resist this world's divisive spirit.—John 10:16; Eph. 2:2.

[2] God's unfailing purpose is that all intelligent creation be united in true worship. (Rev. 5:13) Knowing the importance of this, Jesus made the unity of his followers a matter of earnest prayer. (John 17:20, 21) How can each of us contribute to the unity of the Christian congregation?

[3] **How Unity Is Achieved:** Without God's Word and spirit, Christian unity would be unattainable. Our applying what we read in the Bible allows God's spirit to flow freely in our lives. This enables us "to observe the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace." (Eph. 4:3) It impels us to put up with one another in love. (Col. 3:13, 14; 1 Pet. 4:8) Do you promote unity by meditating on God's Word each day?

[4] Our commission to preach and make disciples also unites us. When we work with others in the Christian ministry, "striving side by side for the faith of the good news," we become "fellow workers in the truth." (Phil. 1:27; 3 John 8) As we do so, the uniting bonds of love within the congregation are strengthened. Why not invite someone you have not recently worked with to accompany you in the field ministry this week?

[5] How privileged we are to be part of the only true international brotherhood on earth today! (1 Pet. 5:9) Recently, thousands experienced this global unity firsthand at the "Give God Glory" International Conventions. May each of us contribute to this precious unity by reading God's Word each day, by resolving differences in love, and by preaching the good news "with one accord."—Rom. 15:6.

Searching Out Deserving Ones

[1] Jesus' instructions for carrying out the preaching work present us with a challenge. He said: "Into whatever city or village you enter, search out who in it is deserving." (Matt. 10:11) With people today spending less and less time at home, how can we conduct this search effectively?

[2] **Analyze Your Territory:** Begin by analyzing your territory. When are people most likely to be at home? Where can they be found during the day? Is there a certain day of the week or time of day when they might be more receptive to a visit? Adjusting your ministry to the routine and circumstances of people in the local territory can help you to accomplish the most good. —1 Cor. 9:23, 26.

[3] Many publishers have found success during the early evening hours. Some householders are more relaxed and inclined to listen at that time. When daylight hours are few during the winter months, telephone witnessing (where allowed) in the evenings may prove effective. Working business territory and witnessing in public areas are also ways to reach people with the good news.

[4] During a month of special activity, one congregation instituted late-afternoon witnessing on Saturdays and Sundays and evening witnessing on Wednesdays and Fridays. They also organized telephone witnessing and arranged to work business territory. These arrangements generated so much enthusiasm for the ministry that the congregation decided to continue them.

[5] **Follow Up Diligently:** If it is challenging in your territory to find people at home when you call back, try to make a specific appointment to call again at the conclusion of each visit, including the initial call. Then, be sure to keep the appointment. (Matt. 5:37) If appropriate, you might ask for the householder's telephone number. This can also help you to contact the person again.

[6] Our diligent efforts to search out deserving ones and follow up on the interest we find will surely have Jehovah's blessing.—Prov. 21:5.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting December 8

Song 221

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, demonstrate how to present the December 15 *Watchtower* and the December 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured.

20 min: "True Christian Unity—How?"* When discussing paragraph 5, invite audience to relate personal experiences involving international conventions, theocratic building projects, or disaster relief work that highlight our Christian unity.

15 min: "The Theocratic Ministry School for 2004." Talk by the school overseer. Include comments on the October 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

Song 108 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 15

Song 71

10 min: Local announcements. Encourage everyone to view the video *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of December 29. Discuss the box "Please Call Promptly." Show an example of the S-70 form if available. Outline special field service arrangements for December 25 and January 1.

15 min: Personal Study—An Act of Worship. A talk based on October 1, 2000, *Watchtower,* pages 14-15, paragraphs 6-10.

20 min: "Help Those 'Rightly Disposed.'"* Use the questions that are provided. Review the list of suggestions for making return visits in the box on page 3 of the March 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

Song 42 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 22

Song 10

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Using the suggestions on page 8, demonstrate how to present the January 1 *Watchtower* and the January 8 *Awake!* Remind everyone of the special Service Meeting next week, during which we will review the *Patient Needs and Rights* video and discuss and distribute the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and healthcare durable power of attorney (DPA) form.

15 min: Local needs.

18 min: "Searching Out Deserving Ones."* Make local application of the material. When are residents most likely to be at home? What results have been achieved by working in the late afternoon or early evening? What methods can be used to make contact with people who are rarely home?

Song 209 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 29

Song 200

5 min: Local announcements. Encourage all publishers to turn in field service reports for December. Mention literature offer for January.

17 min: "A Video That Highlights an Important Medical Trend." To be handled by a qualified elder. Read Acts 15:28, 29, and briefly emphasize that the principal reason why Christians refuse blood transfusions is to honor God's law on the sanctity of blood. Then get right into a discussion of the *Patient Needs and Rights* video, using the questions that are provided in the article. Conclude by reading the last paragraph.

23 min: Facing Medical Challenges Confidently. Talk by qualified elder, using outline supplied by the branch office. Review key points from the box "Provisions to Help Us Abstain From Blood."

Song 182 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 5

Song 103

Note: Congregations are not to move their Service Meeting for the week of January 5 to an earlier night unless the circuit overseer is visiting. In every congregation, the convention insert should be considered on the Service Meeting as scheduled. If there is a circuit assembly this week, book study overseers should announce the convention location and dates at their regularly scheduled book studies. A copy of the Recommended Lodging List should be made available by the overseer so that those in attendance can copy the hotel phone numbers for making their reservations. However, copies of this list should not be made for publishers.

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Your Labor Is Not in Vain. (1 Cor. 15:58) Audience discussion. Arrange in advance for publishers who have been active for many years to relate details about the work in the early days. How many were associated with the congregation? How much territory was the congregation assigned to work? How did people respond to the Kingdom message? What type of opposition did you encounter? How has the Kingdom work grown in the local area over the years?

25 min: "2004 'Walk With God' District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses." To be handled by the congregation secretary. After considering paragraph 1, read the December 15, 2003, convention assignment letter. When discussing paragraph 3, have all the points in the boxes on page 4 read by volunteers from the audience. Encourage all to make their convention arrangements as soon as possible.

Song 7 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**191**	**107.7**	**93.1**	**48.8**	**4.5**
Pios.	**91,621**	**68.7**	**48.3**	**21.7**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**24,774**	**50.8**	**38.3**	**13.3**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**865,198**	**9.4**	**8.5**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**981,784**		Baptized: **1,737**		

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2004 “Walk With God” District Convention of Jehovah’s Witnesses

[1] What makes our annual district conventions special for you? Upbuilding talks and a drama prepared for us by “the faithful and discreet slave”? (Matt. 24:45-47) New publications containing timely spiritual nourishment? Brothers and sisters presenting their experiences of how the Bible has changed their lives for the better? Reports of how the Kingdom-preaching work is progressing in other lands? Association with fellow believers of all ages? Yes, we look forward to our conventions with keen anticipation for these and many other reasons!

[2] **Attend All Three Days:** Through Moses, Jehovah commanded: “Congregate the people . . . in order that they may listen and in order that they may learn.” (Deut. 31:12) Through the faithful and discreet slave class, Jehovah has prepared a special program of education for us on each day of our convention. Since he is teaching us to ‘benefit ourselves,’ we want to be present for all of his instruction. (Isa. 48:17) If you need to request time off from your employer, pray to Jehovah and make your request, following Nehemiah’s courageous example. (Neh. 1:11; 2:4) Also, it would be loving to inform unbelieving family members of your convention plans as soon as possible.

Program Times

Friday and Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 5:10 p.m.
Sunday
9:30 a.m. - 4:05 p.m.

[3] **Accommodations:** For your convenience, rooming arrangements have already been made in each convention city. A Recommended Lodging List of available hotels will be posted on your congregation’s information board after this insert is considered at the Service Meeting. The local brothers assisting the branch office are able to arrange these reduced hotel rates because of your fine cooperation. Therefore, please reserve rooms only at hotels on the list, and agree to pay only the rates shown. This will help toward the goal of obtaining high-quality hotels near the convention site at the best rates possible each year. Hotels slightly farther from the convention site are also very good. Before you call to make your reservation, review the points in the box “How You Can Support the Rooming Arrangements,” on page 4. When you call, follow the steps in the box “What Is the Best Way to Reserve a Hotel Room?”

[4] **Special Needs:** The apostle Paul reminded the congregations in Galatia to “work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to [them] in the faith.” (Gal. 6:10) Elderly brothers and sisters, the infirm, single parents, or those in full-time service may not ask for your help, but they may have challenges to overcome in order to attend the convention. Are you in a position to “work what is good” toward them and offer some assistance? Christian relatives and the elders should particularly be aware of the circumstances of such ones.

[5] If a Special Needs Room Request form is submitted by a publisher, the Congregation Service Committee will review it, using the guidelines on the form. They should consider whether the need can be cared for locally. This provision is only for publishers in good standing, along with their well-behaved children. If

How You Can Support the Rooming Arrangements

- Stay only in hotels on this year's Recommended Lodging List. Do not call hotels that are not on the list and ask if they have a rate for our convention. Hotels that are not on the list will often say they have a rate for Jehovah's Witnesses.
- To comply with fire safety laws, plan on a maximum of four persons in each room, including children, unless the list indicates otherwise under the heading "Adults."
- If no rooms are available after calling all the hotels on the list or if you have a problem with a hotel, inform your congregation secretary. He should contact your convention's Rooming Department, using the information at the top of the list. Please wait for a revised list to be received for your convention, rather than calling a hotel that is not on the list.
- Reserve only the rooms you will actually use.
- To guarantee your reservation, you must send a deposit to the hotel for each room reserved. Otherwise, the hotel can offer your room to someone else.
- Keep your first reservation.
- The congregation secretary may make a copy of the Recommended Lodging List for each book study overseer to share with his group only if the congregation has its two-day circuit assembly the week the convention assignment letter is read. No copies of the list are to be made for individual publishers.

the Rooming Department has any questions regarding a special needs request, they will contact the congregation secretary.

6 **Attending Another Convention:** Your circumstances may require that you attend a convention other than the one to which your congregation is assigned. If you need information about another convention, please see your congregation secretary. The reverse side of the Special Needs Room Request form has the current year's conventions in the United States and Canada in date order, and the address for each convention headquarters is provided. Mail your request to the appropriate address, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If two or more conventions are held in the city, be sure your request indicates the dates of the convention you wish to attend. The Rooming Department for that convention will send you their most recent Recommended Lodging List.

7 At a convention of Jehovah's people held nearly 2,500 years ago, Ezra and his fellow Levites read from God's Word and explained it to the gathered people. The result? Nehemiah 8:12 tells us that "all the people went away to . . . carry on a great rejoicing, for they had understood the words that had been made known to them." Are we not grateful that the anointed slave class, like Ezra and the Levites, uses God's Word, explains it, and shows us how to apply it in our lives? In so doing, that slave reflects Jehovah's genuine love and concern for all His people. Make it your resolve not to miss a day of the "Walk With God" District Convention!

What Is the Best Way to Reserve a Hotel Room?

1. Call hotels during regular business hours, using the telephone numbers on the Recommended Lodging List.
2. Inform the hotel that you are attending the convention of Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Provide the dates you will check in and check out of the hotel.
4. If no more rooms are available, call another hotel on the list.
5. Be sure that you are receiving the room rate shown on the list. Do not accept a higher rate.
6. Make your reservation, and ask for a confirmation number.
7. Make your deposit by credit card, check, or money order. *Never* send cash. If deposit is made by check or money order, write the confirmation number on the front. Mail *within ten days.*

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 29, 2003. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of November 3 through December 29, 2003. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. Why is use of the Bible so important in the field ministry? [*be* p. 145 par. 2, box]
2. How does the context affect the way a scripture is introduced? [*be* p. 149]
3. Why is it important to emphasize the right words when reading a Bible text, and how can this be achieved? [*be* p. 151 par. 2, box]
4. How do we apply Paul's counsel to 'handle the word of the truth aright' when we teach others, and why is this important? (2 Tim. 2:15) [*be* p. 153 par. 2, box]
5. How did Paul 'reason from the Scriptures'? (Acts 17:2, 3) [*be* p. 155 par. 5–p. 156 par. 1]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. When we use our foremost research tool, the Bible, to prepare a talk, why is it beneficial to (1) examine the context of verses, (2) check the cross-references, and (3) search with a Bible concordance? [*be* p. 34 par. 3–p. 35 par. 2]
7. How is true loyalty reflected and toward whom? [*w*01 10/1 pp. 22-3]
8. What indicates that Jehovah is an accurate timekeeper? (Dan. 11:35-40; Luke 21:24) [*si* p. 284 par. 1]
9. What factors should we keep in mind when deciding what points to use after doing research for a talk? [*be* p. 38]
10. Why is Jesus' statement concerning "the days of Noah" relevant to our situation today? (Matt. 24:37) [*w*01 11/15 p. 31 pars. 3-4]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. How does Paul's letter to Philemon show that a Christian's commission is to help individuals become Christians, not to promote social reform? (Philem. 12)
12. What is the difference between 'drifting away,' "drawing away," and "falling away"? (Heb. 2:1; 3:12; 6:6) [*w*99 7/15 p. 19 par. 12; *w*86 6/1 p. 14 pars. 16-17; *w*80 12/1 p. 23 par. 8]
13. How can we avoid turning the expression "if Jehovah wills" into something trivial? (Jas. 4:15) [*cj* p. 171 pars. 1-2]
14. What does it mean to 'await and keep close in mind the presence of the day of Jehovah,' and how can we do that? (2 Pet. 3:12) [*w*97 9/1 pp. 19-20]
15. What important counsel for Christians today is found in the messages to the seven congregations mentioned in Revelation chapters 2 and 3? (Rev. 2:4, 5, 10, 14, 20; 3:3, 10, 11, 17, 19)

Please Call Promptly

Call promptly on whom? On those who request literature or regular magazine delivery or who would like a Witness to visit them at their home. Where do these requests come from? From individuals who contact the branch office by mail or telephone or by means of our official Internet Web site. When such interest is shown, the branch office notifies the local congregation by means of the S-70 form, which is a slip with the heading "Please Arrange for a Qualified Publisher to Call on This Person." When the elders receive an S-70 form, they should immediately pass it on to a publisher who will diligently follow through on the interest. If the publisher has difficulty finding the person at home, the publisher might try to contact him by telephone or discreetly to leave a note. If you are asked to make such a call, please make every effort to contact the interested person promptly.

The Theocratic Ministry School for 2004

[1] Jehovah equips ordinary people to accomplish work of universal importance. One way in which he does this is through the training provided each week at the Theocratic Ministry School. Are you participating as fully as your circumstances allow? In January a few adjustments will go into effect with a view toward helping students to get the most from the arrangements.

[2] **Auxiliary Counselor Rotation:** Brothers who give instruction talks and Bible highlights have appreciated the observations offered by the auxiliary counselor. Where there are enough qualified elders, the assignment of auxiliary counselor may be rotated yearly. In this way, the work load can be shared; but more important, elders and qualified ministerial servants will profit from the collective experience of a variety of capable speakers and teachers.

[3] **Oral Review Scheduling:** If your congregation has a circuit assembly on an oral review week, then the review (and the rest of the weekly schedule) should be postponed one week and the subsequent week's schedule should be used one week early. However, it is not necessary to exchange two complete weekly schedules when the oral review coincides with a circuit overseer's visit. Instead, the song, the speech quality talk, and Bible highlights should be presented as scheduled. The instruction talk (given after the speech quality talk) should be drawn from the following week's schedule. Bible highlights will be followed by a half-hour Service Meeting, which can be adjusted so as to have either three 10-minute parts or two 15-minute parts. (Opening announcements should be eliminated.) The Service Meeting will be followed by a song and a half-hour program by the circuit overseer. The Theocratic Ministry School for the next week will proceed with the speech quality talk and Bible highlights as scheduled, followed by the oral review.

[4] Take advantage of each opportunity for spiritual growth. As you benefit from your Theocratic Ministry School education, you encourage your congregation, play a part in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, and bring praise to the Author of the wonderful message that we must proclaim. —Isa. 32:3, 4; Rev. 9:19.

A Video That Highlights an Important Medical Trend

Legal and health-care professionals are giving increased attention to the ethical views and rights of medical patients. This has promoted new therapies and approaches from which Jehovah's Witnesses can benefit. (Acts 15:28, 29) That is the focus of the video *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights.* Watch it, and then review what you learned. —Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in viewing the video with young children.

(1) Why is the medical community reevaluating the use of blood transfusions? **(2)** Give three examples of complex surgeries that are performed without blood transfusions. **(3)** How many physicians and surgeons worldwide have indicated their willingness to treat patients without blood transfusions? Why are they willing to do so? **(4)** What have recent hospital studies revealed about blood use? **(5)** What are the medical risks associated with blood transfusions? **(6)** What conclusion have many experts reached regarding the benefits of transfusion alternatives? **(7)** What causes anemia? How tolerable is it in humans? What can be done to compensate for it? **(8)** How can red-cell production be stimulated in a patient's body? **(9)** What techniques are being used to minimize blood loss during surgery? **(10)** Can transfusion alternatives work for young children or for people involved in life-threatening emergencies? **(11)** What is one of the primary ethical principles of good medical care? **(12)** Why is it important for Christians to make nonblood treatment choices in advance? How can we do this?

Acceptance of some treatments featured in the video is a matter for private decision in accord with each one's Bible-trained conscience. Have you decided which transfusion alternatives you are willing to accept for yourself and your children? Non-Witness family members should also be fully informed of your decisions and the reasons for them.—See "Questions From Readers" in the June 15 and October 15, 2000, issues of *The Watchtower.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*, *My Book of Bible Stories*, or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any book published prior to 1988 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Mankind's Search for God.* **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* or *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* as an alternative offer. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. If people already have this publication, *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* may be offered.

■ As a reminder to the brothers handling the congregation accounts, donations placed in the boxes for the Worldwide Work and for the Kingdom Hall Fund are to be remitted monthly and should not be used for payment on a Kingdom Hall property loan or for any other congregation expense.

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following Saturdays: March 13, 2004 (Gilead graduation); May 8, 2004 (spring cleaning); September 11, 2004 (Gilead graduation); and October 2, 2004 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

■ The Memorial invitations for **2004** in the primary language of each congregation will soon be sent to the congregation. If other languages are spoken in your territory and you would like a supply of invitations in those languages, these should be requested as soon as possible on a Literature Request form (S-14). A listing of the languages in which Memorial invitations are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed to all congregations each month. Please request only those languages needed for your territory.

■ Please note that the Memorial for the year **2005** will be on Thursday, March 24, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found. In such instances, the elders should have an agreement with the management ensuring that there will be no disturbances from other activities in the building so that the Memorial observance can proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner. Because of the importance of the occasion, the body of elders should select one of the more qualified elders to be the Memorial speaker instead of simply taking turns or using the same brother every year. If there is a capable elder of the anointed who can give the talk, he should be selected.

■ From March 15, 2004, through May 16, 2005, the book *Draw Close to Jehovah* will be considered at the Congregation Book Study. Congregations in need of the large-print edition of this publication should submit their requests as early as possible.

Provisions to Help Us Abstain From Blood

Baptized publishers who have previously completed an Advance Medical Directive/Release card or Identity Card with no print date or a 3/99 print date will not need to complete a new one this year. For the Service Meeting the week of December 29, the secretary should have available sufficient quantities of the cards for newly baptized publishers, their children, and those needing replacements. Congregations will not be sent a consignment of these items. If the congregation does not have enough cards on hand, the secretary may check with nearby congregations or request more cards with the congregation's next literature request.

The cards should be carefully filled out at home but NOT signed. At the next Congregation Book Study, the cards should be signed, witnessed, and dated, with assistance as needed from the book study overseer. Witnesses should actually see the cardholder sign the card.

Publishers will not need to execute a new health-care durable power of attorney (DPA) form unless (1) their current one is dated prior to 1/2001 (12/2002 for Alabama; 8/2001 for North Dakota), (2) it does not reflect their current wishes, or (3) they have moved to another state. The secretary should also have sufficient quantities of the DPA form and the Advance Directive Guide.

Unbaptized publishers may write out directives for themselves and their children by adapting language from the Advance Medical Directive/Release card, Identity Card, and DPA form.

Help Those "Rightly Disposed"

[1] Each person has a disposition that is rooted in his figurative heart. (Matt. 12:35) The Bible speaks of one whose "heart is disposed to fight." (Ps. 55:21) Some are "disposed to rage." (Prov. 29:22) But there are also those who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life." (Acts 13:48) In our day, Jehovah is gathering to himself such rightly disposed ones. (Hag. 2:7) How can we help them to become worshipers of Jehovah?

[2] **Return Conscientiously:** Having the right view of making return visits is vital in order for us to fulfill our commission to make disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Are we quick to follow up on the interest we find? Do we call again on all who accept literature or who express interest in the good news? Do we persist in our efforts to help them grow spiritually? Since lives are involved, we should seek to cultivate all the interest that we find.

[3] While a conversation with an interested person is still fresh in mind, take a moment to write down his name and address. Note the subject discussed, any scriptures that were read, and what literature was placed. Thereafter, make it a point to return as soon as possible.

[4] **Making a Return Visit:** When you are making a return visit, it is helpful to be warm and friendly and to show sincere personal interest in the householder. Keep the discussion simple and Scriptural. Prepare an appealing Bible subject to discuss, and at the conclusion of the call, raise a question that can be answered on the next visit. It is best to avoid needlessly taking issue with unscriptural views that the householder may express. Strive to build on things that you have in common.—Col. 4:6.

[5] Making return visits requires effort, but the rewards are satisfying. A pioneer in Japan set a goal to make more return visits every month. He began keeping a record of all those he met in the house-to-house work, and then within seven days, he called on them again. He thoroughly prepared what he would say and carried out his service with complete confidence in the message he bore. On one of his calls, he was able to start a study with a person who had said: "I've always turned you people away. It's the first time I've ever listened." The pioneer's loving persistence brought results. By month's end he was reporting ten Bible studies.

[6] People's circumstances are constantly changing. (1 Cor. 7:31) It often takes several attempts to find an interested person at home again. By our conscientiously making return visits, we can help those who are rightly disposed to get on the road to everlasting life.—Matt. 7:13, 14.

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1. Who is Jehovah gathering to himself in our day?
2. What is involved in fulfilling our commission to make disciples?
3. What should we do after conversing with someone in the ministry?
4. How can we make effective return visits?
5. What effort did one pioneer put forth, and with what results?
6. Why must we persist in making return visits?

What to Say About the Magazines

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THE WATCHTOWER Dec. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"At this time of year, many people think about the birth of Jesus. Have you ever wondered what kind of family he grew up in? [Allow for response. Then read Luke 2:51, 52.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses practical lessons we can draw from the Bible's record of Jesus' upbringing."

Awake! Dec. 22

"All of us desire to see our children lead happy, successful lives. What do you think children need most to cope with today's stressful world? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 22:6.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses what children need and how parents can meet these needs."

THE WATCHTOWER Jan. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Many people long for peace on earth. Do you think that we will ever see these words fulfilled? [Read Psalm 46:9. Then allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses how this will be accomplished and why we can have confidence in God's promise of a world without war."

Awake! Jan. 8

"Worldwide, millions of people are afflicted with mood disorders, such as depression and bipolar disorder. Our Creator cares deeply for such ones. [Read Psalm 34:18.] This magazine discusses how sufferers can be helped. It also points out the Bible's promise that soon all illness will be done away with."